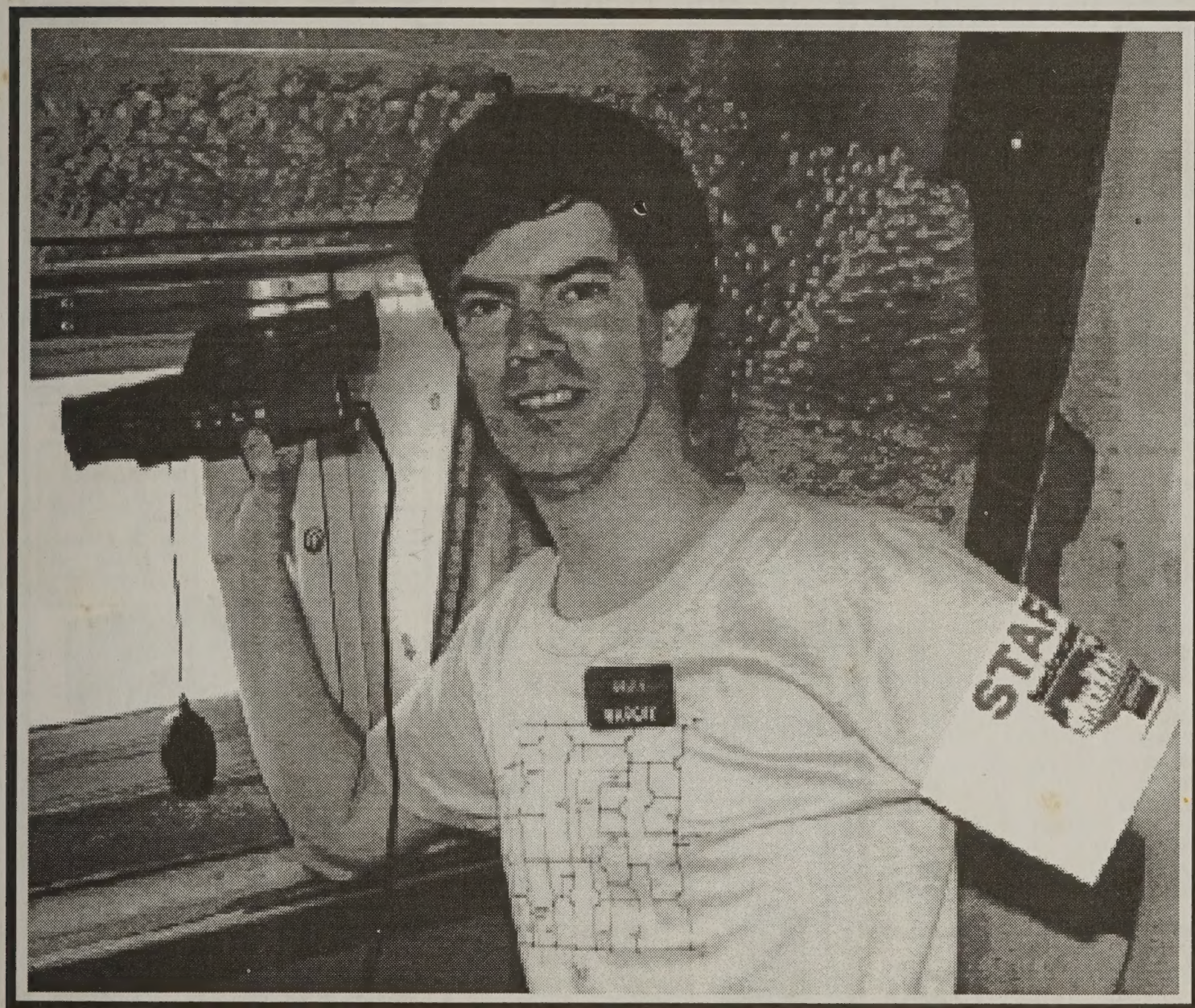




*The Official Journal of the Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.*

**SEPTEMBER 1997**



**Rules and Regs • ARRL Report • VE Exams Schedule  
Public Service Report • DX Column • Regional Hamfests  
Club Reports • Shack Sales • Much More!**



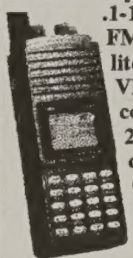
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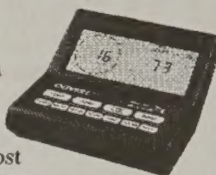


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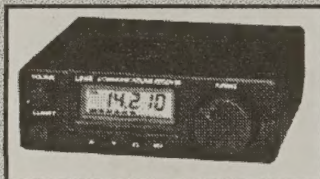
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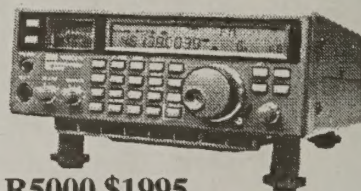
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- Widest Range 10kHz - 2.6GHz\*
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- RS232 All functions (ASCII)
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ICOM's Latest WideBand Receiver

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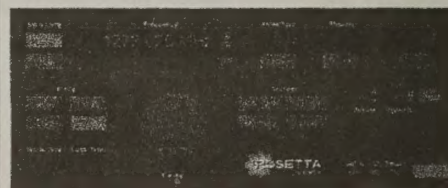
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# Regional Hamfests and Other Events

September 6	Radio Association of Erie, Erie, PA	814-474-1211
September 6-7	Kentucky State Convention, Louisville, KY	812-294-4905
<b>September 7</b>	<b>F.A.R. FEST '97, Gaithersburg, MD</b>	<b>703-971-3905</b>
September 7	Butler County ARA, Butler, PA	412-282-6777
September 14	Delaware Valley Radio Assn., Trenton, NJ	609-882-2240
September 14	Wheeling Hamfest, Wheeling, WV	614-546-3930
September 20-21	Virginia State Convention, Virginia Beach, VA	757-484-2857
October 3-4	HOSSTRADERS, Rochester, NH	207-469-3492
October 5	CARA Hamfest, Howard County Fairgrounds, MD	410-531-2933
October 10-12	ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference	www.amrad.org
October 26	Mason-Dixon Computer & Hamfest, Westminster, MD	717-633-6641
November 8	Grand Strand ARC, Myrtle Beach, SC	803-215-0474
November 22-23	Florida State Convention, Tampa, FL	813-525-5178



## National Capital ARES Council Public Service Calendar

Sat	Aug 23	NCAC SET - N4ZGI
S/S	Sep 6/7	MADDash Bike Trek - N4ZGI
Sun	Sep 14	DC MS Half Marathon - N3RPQ
F/S/S	Sep 19/20/21	Claude Moore Farm Park - KC4RON
S/S	Sep 20/21	Virginia Section Convention
S/S	Oct 11/12	ARRL SET
Sun	Oct 12	Clifton Days - KC4RON
Sat	Oct 18	Loudoun Hospital Move (ARES Support)
Sun	Oct 26	Marine Corps Marathon - N4ZGI

**FOR DETAILS ON THESE EVENTS, CHECK INTO THE NCAC NET EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT AT 9:00 PM LOCAL TIME ON NVFMA'S 146.910 REPEATER.**



## On The Cover

Pictured is Bruce Brown, WA9GVK, trustee of the Metrovision ATV Repeater. Bruce is the first amateur in the world to build an ATV repeater. He and the fledgling club petitioned the FCC several times and convinced Congress for permission in the early 70's to put an ATV repeater on the air. Ultimately the FCC made a rule change and the rest is history. Metrovision celebrates its 25th anniversary on September 19th, 1997.





# VIRGINIA BEACH HAMFEST

## Sept 20 & 21, 1997

Virginia Beach Pavilion, Virginia Beach, Va.



## ARRL VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION Major Ham Radio Manufacturers Ham Radio Dealers

*Guest Speaker - ARRL PRESIDENT*

*Rodney Stafford, KB6ZV*

*AREA'S LARGEST COMPUTER EXHIBIT*

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\_\_\_\_\_ Commercial 8' Table for both days -- \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Commercial Tables (10 or more) for both days -- \$25.00 per table \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Electrical Outlet for both days -- \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Banquet Tickets -- \$20.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

For Information About Show Call (757) HAMFEST

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

New This Year! The "Tail Gate" area will moved inside to eliminate the inconveniences caused by inclement weather, and to increase the number of parking spaces available to Hamfest attendees. A special area will be designated for dealer parking of trucks, vans, and motor homes, also to enhance parking for the attendees.





## MEMBER CLUBS

Adams County Amateur Radio Society	Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Assn.
Alexandria Radio Club	Montgomery Amateur Radio Club
Amateur Radio Research and Develop. Corp.	Montgomery Auxiliary Communications Service
AMSAT - Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation	Moose Amateur Radio Club
Anne Arundel Radio Club	Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club
Antietam Radio Association, Inc.	National Capitol ARES Council
ARINC Amateur Radio Club	National Capitol DX Association
Arlington Amateur Radio Club	Naval Research Laboratory Radio Club
Baltimore Amateur Radio Club	NOAA Amateur Radio Club
Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society	North Point FM Association
Capital City Amateur Radio Society	Northern Virginia FM Association
Capital Hill Amateur Radio Society	Northern Virginia Radio Club
Carroll County Amateur Radio Club	Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club
Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club	Opequon Radio Society
Chaverim of the Greater Washington Area	Pentagon Amateur Radio Club
Columbia Amateur Radio Association	Potomac Area VHF Society
Culpeper Amateur Radio Association	Potomac Valley Radio Club
D-MARC - Digital Mid-Atlantic Radio Council	Prince George's Wireless Association, Inc.
Department of State Amateur Radio Club	Prince George's County ARES/RACES
Dulles Amateur Radio Group	Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc.
Explorer Post #80- Amateur Radio	Baltimore Chapter #20
Fauquier Amateur Radio Association	Del-Mar-VA Chapter #150
Frederick Amateur Radio Club	Shenandoah Valley Chapter #137
Frederick Amateur Repeater Group	Vic Clark Chapter #91
Goddard Amateur Radio Club	Washington Chapter #23
Green Mountain Repeater Association	Rock Creek Amateur Radio Association
Hanover Area Hamming Association	St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association
Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club	Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club
IBM Amateur Radio Club	Southern Maryland Amateur Radio Club
Johns Hopkins University APL ARC	Southern Patuxent Amateur Radio Club
Kent Island Amateur Radio Club	Stafford Amateur Radio Assn.
Laurel Amateur Radio Club	Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club
Leisure World Amateur Radio Club	Summit Amateur Radio Association
Loudoun Amateur Radio Group	Tri-County Amateur Radio Club
MD/DC MARS (Navy Marine) Association	T-MARC, Middle Atlantic Repeater Council
MADRAS	Vienna Wireless Society
Maryland Emergency Phone Net	Voice of America Amateur Radio Club
Maryland FM Association	Waldorf Repeater Support Group
Maryland Mobileers Amateur Radio Club	Washington Adventist Amateur Radio Assn.
Mercury Amateur Radio Assn., NE Area	Washington Area Young Ladies ARC
Metropolitan Communications Network	Woodbridge Wireless, Inc.
Metrovision Amateur TV Club	

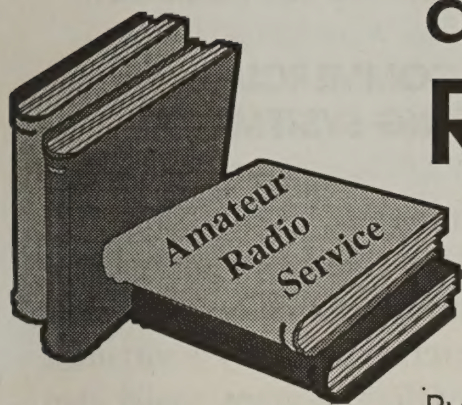
## NEXT FOUNDATION MEETING

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. meets at 8: p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. **Visitors are always welcome!** The next meeting will be held September 10th at the Lee Center, Alexandria, Virginia. Take Capitol Beltway to Exit 1 (US 1 North). North to the second traffic light, left on Gibbon Street to Fayette. Left on Fayette to dead end at Lee Center Parking Lot. The meeting is conducted in the conference room near the main office of the center.

**Talk-in on  
146.55**



# Rules and Regs



By Jack Kelleher  
W4ZC

## ARRL BOARD SUPPORTS HAM SPECTRUM PROTECTIONS, BAND PLANS, VE RULES CHANGES

The ARRL Board of Directors has resolved to support legislation that would provide statutory protections for ham radio frequencies. The action came as the Board met July 18 and 19 in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. In taking this action, the Board cited the potential threat to Amateur Radio bands from the federal policy of selling spectrum to the highest bidder.

In a separate action, the Board voted to seek primary Amateur Service allocations of 5650 to 5725 MHz and 5825 to 5850 MHz in the 5650 to 5925 MHz band that is now a secondary allocation. Voluntary band plans would be referenced in the FCC's rules under another Board action. Noting the erosion in the level of compliance with the various band plans, the Board voted to petition the FCC to amend the amateur rules to state that hams "should be familiar with, and should abide by" voluntary band plans that apply to the frequencies they use.

Noting that no clear consensus has emerged in the wake of suggestions to restructure the Amateur Radio licensing system, the Board voted to extend the period for member comments. At its January meeting, the Board had received a committee report that offered several suggestions to revamp the amateur licensing system. Until further notice, members may continue to direct comments on restructuring to their ARRL directors. The Board plans to revisit the issue at a later date.

### FCC REMINDER:

The FCC is warning companies that offer to modify scanning receivers (this includes many H-Ts with extended receive coverage) in order to receive cellular telephone frequencies that this activity prohibited by federal law and FCC rules. The FCC's reminder, issued July 10, noted that scanning receivers must be FCC-certified and incapable of "readily being altered by the user" to pick up the cellular bands. "The modification of scanners on a substantial scale to receive cellular frequencies will be considered to constitute manufacture of such equipment" in violation of federal law and FCC rules, the Public Notice said. "Entities engaged in such activity are cautioned to cease advertising and/or performing any such activity immediately."—(FCC/ARRL Ltr 7-11-97)

### FCC CONSUMER ASSISTANCE LINE:

The FCC's Consumer Assistance number in Gettysburg, 800-322-1117, is being discontinued. All calls now should go to the new, toll-free number, 888-CALL FCC (888-225-5322). For the time being, calls to 800-322-1117 will ring over to the new number after a little message that informs the caller of the change. (ARRL Ltr 7-11-97)

### ELECTRONIC VANITY APPLICATIONS TO GET PRIORITY

Vanity call sign Gate 3 opened on August 6, 1997. Like the others, we presume that it will remain open indefinitely.

The FCC announced that it will process electronic applications ahead of paper applications

*Continued next page*



each day. Previously, the FCC did not distinguish in how it handled electronic and paper Form 610V applications. In recent months, the FCC has been receiving more electronic applications than paper applications. The FCC says it will process electronic applications, then paper applications received on any given day.

The FCC also has established a firm deadline for receipt of application fees to accompany electronic applications. After Gate 3 opens, fees for electronic applications must be received by the FCC's fiscal agent, Mellon Bank, within 10 days of the date of application or the application will be dismissed. Under the FY 97 schedule, which becomes effective September 15, 1997, the vanity application fee will jump to \$50.

Applicants can find the electronic Form 610V on the FCC's Web site at <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/amradsrv.html>. Electronic applications require a Form 159 for any method of payment. Mail payments accompanying electronic applications to Federal Communications Commission, Box 358994, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5994.

Paper applications require an FCC Form 159 if payment is by credit card or if the application package contains multiple applications being paid for with one check. Individual applications do not require a Form 159 if payment is by personal check or money order. Send paper applications containing payments to Federal Communications Commission, Box 358924, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5924.

To avoid processing delays, applicants should make sure the information on their license is up to date. If you have changed your name or address, you must file Form 610 with the FCC to request modification of your license to show the correct information. In the case of a club station, you must file Form 610B.

Gate 3 opened the vanity call sign program to Advanced class amateurs. The FCC has not said when it will open Gate 4, for General, Technician

Plus, Technician and Novice class operators. For more information, call the FCC's toll-free Consumer Information line at 888-225-5322 (CALL FCC). Please note the 888 area code!

## **FCC OKAYS COMMERCIAL HF MESSAGING SYSTEM**

Over objections from the ARRL and several other parties, the FCC has given a conditional go-ahead to Flash Comm Inc to build and operate a nationwide, commercial, two-way short-data messaging system on HF. The grant, under Part 90 of the FCC regulations, would be on a secondary basis. The frequencies Flash Comm intends to use do not fall in any current ham bands. The League strenuously objected to the plan, however. The ARRL's primary objection stemmed from the fact that some of the frequencies Flash Comm plans to use fall within potential HF band expansions at 30, 20 and 17 meters and close to a potential new ham band at or near 5 MHz. The League said that it would drop its objections to Flash Comm's petition if the frequencies now under consideration for expanded ham allocations were dropped.

All of those who commented on the petition opposed it, fearing unacceptable interference in the HF spectrum. However, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau said Flash Comm presented "a compelling case" that the new service "will be a unique and cost-effective way to monitor public and private property and infrastructure." Under the Flash Comm system, so-called "intelligent transceiver units" would be installed on vehicles as well as on structures.

Transmitted data would enable the service to track the location or monitor the status of the "asset." Transmissions would be in short bursts averaging two seconds on unoccupied HF channels the Flash Comm system would select automatically. Radiated power would not exceed 1 W, although individual transmitter outputs could be as high as 15 W. The Commission said

*Continued next page*



authorizing the system would provide valuable data for the FCC to evaluate plans to establish permanent rules for these sorts of operations.

The authorization, which involved some rules waivers, is for five years. Flash Comm has petitioned the FCC to establish rules to provide regular authorization of this type of service.

## **PRIVACY BILL COULD AFFECT SCANNER CERTIFICATION**

A bill introduced by Rep Edward Markey of Massachusetts that's intended to add privacy protections for consumers using the nation's communication networks has caught the attention of scanner enthusiasts and some amateurs.

One clause in the bill—HR 1964, the Communications Privacy and Consumer Empowerment Act—would expand electronic privacy provisions in the Communications Act from the cellular telephone service to all Commercial Mobile Radio Services (CMRS). It would do this by prohibiting FCC certification of devices capable of receiving these frequencies. The CMRS is a relative new umbrella designation of subscriber based radio services that act like telephone services. Such services include commercial paging services, commercial air-to-ground services, cellular telephone, offshore radiotelephone, personal communication services and specialized mobile radio services. The bill includes digital transmissions in those services.

While the apparent purpose of the change is to ensure the privacy of "telephone" conversations, scanner enthusiasts fear that a worst-case outcome could be to inhibit, if not block completely, the further certification of scanning radios. This could include ham transceivers with out-of-band receiving capability. Such radios must receive FCC certification to be sold legally. Designing cost-effective devices to filter the proscribed frequencies could prove difficult for manufacturers. This week, the ARRL met with Congressman Markey's staff in Washington to express Amateur

Radio concerns about HR 1964. We presented information demonstrating what frequencies would be affected and the impact the bill could have on Amateur Radio public service activities.

"We learned several things," said Steve Mansfield, the League's Legislative and Public Affairs Manager. "First, our suspicions were confirmed that, as a Democratic bill referred to the Republican controlled Commerce Committee, the bill has very little chance of passage in its present form."

Mansfield said the League contingent also found out that members of Congress do pay attention. "We explained that, in addressing privacy concerns, the bill casts too wide a net and could hurt Amateur Radio interests," he said. "Rep Markey's staff listened attentively to our concerns and invited us to help them craft language to address the problems we outlined, which we are doing." Since provisions within the bill could still be picked up and put in other bills in this or subsequent sessions of Congress, we felt the bill still required changes.

According to Colin Crowell, Markey's Legislative Assistant for telecommunication issues, the provision in question was intended to provide some privacy protections for fee-based "telephone" type services (especially the new PCS service) between now and the time that providers are able to develop robust digital and encryption technologies to ensure privacy. (Tnx ARRL Letter)

## **VANITY UPDATE:**

The FCC in Gettysburg reports it processed vanity call sign applications received during June. The FCC received 418 electronic applications and 232 paper applications during June. It granted 210 new call signs. Several hundred applications remained in the work in process (WIPS) stack, which FCC personnel have continued to process. FCC seeks comments on Strategic Plan: The FCC

*Continued next page*



seeks public comment on its Strategic Plan. A copy of the plan is available at [http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Miscellaneous/Public\\_Notices/1997/spintro.html](http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Miscellaneous/Public_Notices/1997/spintro.html). Comments should be forwarded by August 1, 1997, to Kathy Fagan, Room 240E, 2000 M St NW, Washington, DC 20554; e-mail [kfagan@fcc.gov](mailto:kfagan@fcc.gov). (Tnx ARRL Ltr 7-25-97)

### **RADIO AMATEURS CANADA HAS DECIDED TO REVIEW THAT NATIONS HIGH FREQUENCY BANDPLAN**

The Canadians say that proposals emanating from the U.S Amateur community will impact their current band usage. According to Ken Pyke, VE3OGM, the objective that Radio Amateurs Canada has in mind is to formulate a comprehensive and workable HF Band Plan for Canadian Amateurs which takes into consideration Region 1 and 3 HF Band usage.

Pyke says that The Radio Amateurs Canada High Frequency Band Plan Committee is looking for committee members, hopefully two from each Region, who would be willing to help evaluate input from all HF interest groups including SSB, CW, AM, Digital and slow scan amateur TV. Pyke adds that Radio Amateurs Canada will be looking for this input from the overall Canadian ham community as soon as they have the committee members in place. (Radio Amateurs Canada via ARN)

### **FCC ACTS ON DISH PREEMPTION**

(Ed. note: We have reported before on this topic, as it is a possible bellwether for similar action on amateur antennas, apropos of "PRB-1".

The Federal Communications Commission acted on Tuesday, July 22, to preempt a local Kansas law restricting the installation and placement of receive only direct broadcast satellite dishes.

The FCC said the Meade Kansas ordinance requiring a dish installer to obtain a permit and city approval on the placement of the dish conflicted with the commission's preemption rule. The Federal Communications Commission's Cable Service Bureau preempted the ordinance saying "it conflicts with a federal rule in this area." It said Meade's permit provisions are not justified by safety or historic reasons. Also that the rule unreasonably delayed or prevented installation of home satellite dishes.

In taking this action, the FCC has put the teeth of enforcement behind its 1996 rule that prohibit local government or private restrictions on the installation or use of satellite dishes that are one meter or smaller in diameter. Its not known if Meade city planners will challenge the FCC decision in the federal courts. (Tnx ARN #1040 7-25-97).



### **Tornado in Alexandria?**

No. The demolition of 401 Duke Street earlier this year marked the end of an era for members of the Alexandria Radio Club. Club station W4HFH operated at this former Red Cross building from 1955 until March 12th, 1997. Beams and dipoles on the roof brought in wonderful signals during the 40 years that the Alexandria Radio Club held meetings in this building. (Photo by Jim Wilson, K4BAV).





# American Radio Relay League Report

By John Swafford,  
W4HU

*The Purpose of the ARRL Letter is to provide the essential news of interest to active, organizationally minded radio amateurs faster than it can be disseminated by our official Journal, QST. We strive to be fast, accurate and readable in our reporting. Material from the ARRL Letter may be reproduced in whole or in part, in any form, including photo reproduction and electronic data banks, provided that credit is given to The ARRL Letter and The American Radio Relay League.*

## FIRST SAREX CONTACT WITH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA SUCCESSFUL

It didn't come off without a hitch, but the crew aboard the shuttle Columbia during mission STS-94 in July nonetheless managed a first for the Shuttle Amateur Radio EXperiment (SAREX) program.

On Monday, July, 14, the shuttle crew spoke with students at Tsinghua University contact, the designated crew member, Payload Specialist Roger Crouch, was busy with primary mission duties. The SAREX ground team stayed up late and managed a successful QSO on the following orbit.

There were 30 people in the Tsinghua University audience, along with Chinese television, Chinese government officials, and some Chinese IARU representative. David Chang, BY1QH, coordinated the contact at the university's end.

Despite some rough copy, the contact went "very well" with 10 questions asked and answered, according to SAREX Principal Investigator Matt Bordelon, KC5BTL.

The Chinese contact was one of 17 scheduled—and successful—SAREX QSOs the STS-94 crew members completed during its 16-day mission. Overall, ham radio had a very prominent role in the mission, which not only completed all of the scheduled SAREX contacts with school groups but made numerous random QSOs with earthbound hams.

Aboard the shuttle were Jim Halsell, KC5RNI, the Mission commander; Janice Voss, KC5BTK; and Donald Thomas, KC5FYF, who set up the orbiting ham shack and completed 19 random contacts before the "official" scheduled test pass. Toward the end of the mission, the Columbia crew averaged three dozen or so random voice contacts per day during the 16-day mission. The packet robot was activated nine days into the mission.

The other SAREX schools on mission STS-94 were: Alvin C. York Agricultural Institute, Jamestown, Tennessee; Center Street School, El Segundo, California; Crittenden Middle School, Mountain View, California; Discovery Place Inc, Charlotte, North Carolina; Du Bois Middle School, Du Bois, Pennsylvania; Dunn's Corners Elementary School, Westerly, Rhode Island; Edgewater High School, Orlando, Florida; Foursquare Radio Amateur Youth, Oxnard, California; Lone Junior High School, Jackson, California; Lawrence Intermediate School, Lawrenceville, New Jersey; Lexington Traditional Magnet School, Lexington, Kentucky; Mountain View Elementary School, Prescott Valley, Arizona; Public School No. 9, New York, New York; Robert J. Burch Elementary School, Tyrone, Georgia; S.J. Davis Middle School, San Antonio, Texas; and Yeso Elementary School, Artesia, New Mexico.

STS-94 marked the 24th SAREX mission. The mission—a "refly" of the aborted STS-83 mission

*Continued next page*



in April—carried the same crew members and the microgravity science lab payload. STS-94 ended July 17.

## ARRL BOARD ANNOUNCES AWARD WINNERS

Zachary Manganello, K1ZK 9ex-KB1BMG), of Cumberland, Maine, is the winner of the 1996 Hiram Percy Maxim Award. The ARRL Board of Directors approved the award at its recent meeting July 18 and 19 in Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

The Maxim award goes annually to the licensed radio amateur under age 21 whose accomplishments and contributions are of the most exemplary nature within the framework of Amateur Radio activities. The winner receives a \$1000 award and an engraved plaque.

In other action, the Board chose L. James Biddle, WB3DCL, of Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, and Beverly Priest, N8VZV, of Dayton, Ohio, as joint recipients of the Philip J. McGan Silver Antenna Award. The award recognizes public service contributions, and the Board took the occasion to thank all amateurs engaged in public relations efforts on behalf of Amateur Radio.

The Board also named Eric J. Lagerstrom, KN6FR, of Seaside, California, as the recipient of the Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year Award for 1996, and Bruce D. Weaver, K3LTM, of Knoxville, Pennsylvania, as the recipient of the Professional Educator of the year Award of 1996.

“Rick” Lagerstrom says this about his training philosophy: “Tell me and I’ll forget. Show me and I’ll remember. Involve me and I’ll understand.” Lagerstrom believes that a trainer’s missions are to motivate, generate curiosity, show students how to learn, create a positive environment and to have fun! And his approach works. In just four years of volunteer teaching he reports that over 600 of his students have passed their licensing exams! Lagerstrom sums up his instructional efforts in this

way: “My teaching style is to use every teaching tool available to help me students learn about ham radio.”

In just the past four years, Professional Educator of the Year Award winner Bruce D. Weaver, K3LTM, of Westfield, Pennsylvania, has introduced more than 1560 students to the magic of ham radio—just as he’s been doing for the past 20 years! A fifty-grade teacher, Weaver says he attempts to incorporate many different types of technology into his lessons.

For example, in addition to teaching with the aid of Amateur Radio, his students have produced live news programs that air on the local cable system. While his students use computers in the classroom, Weaver says “The most useful teaching tool I have found is Amateur Radio.”

Weaver says that while his original intent was only to show his students what Amateur Radio was all about, he soon realized that Amateur Radio was a great teaching tool, too! One 10-minute contact can lead to an English lesson (how to carry on a conversation), a lesson in map skills (locating the other stations location), a math lesson (on time zones and UTC) or handwriting (filling out a QSL card). “The list is endless,” he says of the possibilities introduced to the school classroom via ham radio.

Along with a congratulatory letter, the winners of this year’s Instructor of the Year awards each receive a beautiful engraved plaque. This year, the ARRL is proud to have a couple of clubs join our efforts, by cosponsoring two of these awards.

Our thanks go the Lake County (La Porte, Indiana) Amateur Radio Club for its long-time support of the Herb S. Brier, W9AD, (volunteer) Instructor of the Year award. In addition, we offer thanks to the Lambda Amateur Radio Club (Int’l), for cosponsoring the 1996 Professional Educator of the Year Award.

*Continued next page*



The ARRL Board also tapped Sam Brown, WA4IUM, of Knoxville, Tennessee, to receive the first ARRL Media Excellence Award. In making the award, the Board cited Brown's distinguished career as a professional television news anchor and his "outstanding success" and long-term commitment to promoting Amateur Radio on television.

In addition, the Board selected Bill Carver, W7AAZ (ex-K6OLG), of Twin Falls, Idaho, as the recipient of the ARRL Technical Excellence Award for his article, "A High Performance AGC/IF Subsystem," which appeared in May 1996 QST.—thanks to Rick Palm, K1CE, and Glenn Swanson, KB1GW, for contributing to this report.

### IN BRIEF:

\* W1AW seeks 20 meter bulletin reports: A change has been made to the W1AW 20 meter bulletin antennas. W1AW requests signal reports from amateurs who listen to the 20 meter transmissions. Please note QTH, time of reception, mode, signal strength and quality. Use of the standard RST system is preferred. Mail reports on a postcard to W1AW, 225 Main St, Newington, CT, 06111; e-mail [w1aw@arrl.org](mailto:w1aw@arrl.org). A W1AW Operating schedule appears in July QST, page 83.

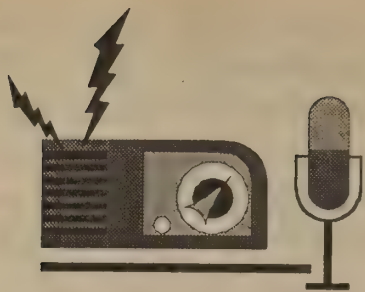
\* Mir back on the air: As US astronaut Mike Foale, KB5UAC, bides his time aboard the troubled Mir space station, he has been active on 2-meter packet and FM voice. Harry Mueller, KC5TRB, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, reports working Foale July 21 on 145.985 MHz FM voice. KC5TRB responded to KB5UAC's CQ. Mueller reports that Foale said he was disappointed that this crew would not get to make the needed Mir repairs, but that he was in "good spirits." Mueller said that Foale "sends his best wishes and a big thank you to the Amateur Radio community" for its support during the Mir crises. From Melbourne, Australia, Chris Edmondson, VK3CE, reports connecting with the R0MIR packet system July 22 on 145.985 MHz and "good copy for the entire high pass of almost 14 minutes." Foale told

MIREX CEO Dave Larsen, N6CO, July 21 that he was having frequent power problems with the TNC and losing messages. "Sorry, No supply store is near at hand," Foale quipped, adding that he was getting ready for the next Mir crew to arrive on August 7. (Note: Mir also uses 145.800/200 MHz—Ed.)—thanks to Rosalie White, WA1STO.

\* Hams provide communication during flooding; Hams in the Kewndall county, Texas, area jumped in to handle health-and welfare-and emergency traffic after flooding struck the area June 22. David McDaniel, AB5UE, president of the Kendall Amateur Radio Society, reports that N5VUO served as net control from the local fire station to coordinate flood and evacuee aid. A red Cross emergency shelter was set up at a school, and WD5FXZ, WD5FXY and KC5OEG passed health-and-welfare traffic to the local emergency operations center via 2 meters. Also assisting were W5VEO, N5QPU, KA5WJY and KC5WWG. The area received more than 20 inches of rain in 24 hours. Later that same week, hams in Texas responded to a call from the American Red Cross to provide emergency communication as floods threatened the town of Tildon, Texas (50 miles south of San Antonio). Bexas County REACT enlisted the aid of Ray Taylor, N5NAV, who's active in ARES and the Central Texas Traffic Net. Communication was set up on HF. Reports REACT member Lee Besing, N5NTG: "Within a couple of hours, amateurs packed their gear and drove into town on the Friday night before Field Day weekend. On Saturday, while the rest of the ham world was practicing Field Day, these hams were really having a Field Day under emergency conditions!" They stayed for 24 hours until the flood waters receded. Others involved included N5IJR, WB5YQC, KK5LA, KB5TEE, N5WSW, KC5NUW, KC5IIQ, KC5VCF, KC5IFT, and KJ5PS.—thanks to David McDaniel, AB5UE, and Lee Lesing, N5NTG.

\* QST Cover Plaque Award winner: The July QST Cover Plaque Award goes to Sam Ulbing, N4UAU, for his article, "My all-Purpose Voltage Booster." Congratulations, Sam!





## DX DX DX

By John Kanode,  
N4MM

### DXCC 2000 PART TWO

The July 1997 meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors has come and went. I guess the best way to put it, is that I have been to more productive meetings. The DXCC 2000 Committee Interim Report was presented to the board and the board was not willing to take any decisive action at this time.

The board did affirm that the DXCC 2000 Committee was working in the right direction. The final report will be presented to the board in January of 1998 along with a motion to implement the final proposal.

In the interim report, the committee has recommended some changes to the DXCC Countries List Criteria. The biggest change is to Point 1, Reason of Government. In order for a country to be on the DXCC List, it must meet one of the three listed requirements: be a member state of the United Nations, be a member of the IARU or have an official ITU assigned Call Sign allotment. This makes it very simple as compared to the highly subjective criteria that exists now.

Other changes were of a minor nature, changing from miles to kilometers and using a straight line measurement to determine minimum size instead of square foot measurement.

The committee also made recommendations on the DXCC Awards structure. This deals with what awards will be given and how they are listed in QST and the DXCC Yearbook. The proposal divides the structure into two major areas. One is called the Mode Awards and the other the Band

Awards. The Mode Awards would stay about the same as they are now. Past deleted countries would still be a part of the program but any future countries that are removed from the list would not be added to the deleted list.

The Band Awards would undergo changes and have two new aspects added to it. First off, single band DXCC's for 20, 17, 15 and 12 meters would be added. They would be the same as the existing single band awards that are in place now.

Two new larger awards would be added, using the sum of the country count from all of the single band awards. This would be called the DXCC 2000 Challenge and it would have four achievement levels at 1000, 1500, 2000 and 2500. Each year, a trophy would be given to the top person of the DXCC 2000 Challenge. This is called the DXCC 2000 Championship or the DeSoto Cup. No deleted countries would be counted for the and Awards and the DXCC 2000 Challenge or the DeSoto Cup.

Also proposed was an one time, special DXCC Award for the year 2000. It would run for the year 2000 and would not require QSL cards and have no endorsements. It would be similar the DXCC Golden Jubilee that was held in 1987. The committee also recommended changes in how the listings would appear in QST and the DXCC Yearbook.

If anyone would like a copy of the report, it can be obtained from ARRL HQ as announced in QST.

### UPCOMING DX CONTESTS

LZ DX Contest	September 6-7
All Asian 558 DX Contest	September 6-7
Worked All Europe SSB	September 13-14
CQ WW RTTY DX Contest	September 27-18

### TIDBITS

The Midway-Kure DX Foundation has announced its plans for a multi-national



DXpedition to Kure Island, tentatively set for the later half of September 1997.

This operation will be an all mode, all band operation involving 5 to 6 operators for a week long period. They plan to have three HF stations in continuous operation. Attention will be made for low band activity.

JD1/JG8NQJ, Marcus Island, will be operational on 40, 30 and 20 meters until late September.

The Dateline DX Association announced that they will be active from the North Cook Islands using the call, ZK1XXP. The operation is scheduled to be on from September 20th to the 27th.

It has been reported that a new group has taken over the responsibility for the 4UIUN operations and promises to be more active. After April 1, 1997 QSL's go to W6TER.

The Wireless Institute of Australia VK3 Branch has changed its address. The new address for incoming VK3 QSL cards is now: WIA Victoria Inwards QSL Bureau, 40G Victory Boulevard, Ashburton, VIC 3147, Australia.

Some have asked, will Hong Kong be deleted from the ARRL DXCC Countries List since it has been given back to China. The answer is NO. There are other reasons why Hong Kong will remain on the list. Two of which is that it has its own prefix block and it still has a separate IARU Society from that of China. Someday in the future it may be deleted but for now, that seems to be a long way off.

The DXCC Desk has received documentation and approved the following operations.

3A/DJ7RJ	J77C
388/DL6UAA	J77FT
3B8/EA3ELM	J79BP

3C5Z	J79QA
3D2UK	J79RC
3XYØ3A	J79WP
8Q7AF	PJ8DX
9H3VG	SØ7NY
9H3VH	SM5ENX/DUI
9H3WD	T32HA
9H3WM	TI8/AA8HV
9K2/YO9HP	TI/ON7ZM
9UST	TL8EJ
857H	TN7A
C5ØYL	TO5C
C53HPT	T6FNU
C93/JA65JN	TY1RY
C93/JG6BKB	V5/DK2WH
C93/JR6XIW	V5/W8UV2
D25L	VKØIR
D2FIB	VK9FL
D68KS	VK9PG
ES1HR	XT2GA
ET3FB	XZIN
H59AL	YV7/AH60M
J3X	YV7/WH6DAG
J6/F5CCO	Z2/SMØFIB
J75T	ZK1JOO

Industry Canada has authorized Canadian Amateurs to use special prefixes to commemorate the Centennerary of Victorian Order of Nurses in Canada, they will be in use until September 15. VA2=XL2, VA3=CI3, VA7=XL7, VE2=CG2, VE3=XL3, VE4=CG4, VE5=CG5, VE6=CG6, VE7=CG7, VE8=CG8, VE9=CG9, VO1=XO3, VO2=XO4, VY1=XN1, VY2=XN2.

It was reported that Turkey was worked on 6 meters from the New England area in mid July. As of late July, there has been little 6 meter DX activity from the Mid Atlantic area.

The MSC has asked the DXAC to review three countries that are now on the DXCC List for possible removal/deletion. Investigations have revealed that two were added with incomplete info and one no longer exists.





## Metrovision Celebrating it's 25th Anniversary

On September 19th, 1997 the Metrovision ATV Club will celebrate it's **25th Anniversary**. When the club was first formed they petitioned the FCC for a Special Temporary Authority (S.T.A.) to put ATV on the ham band. Each S.T.A. was good for only six months. After the second S.T.A. the FCC was ready to pull the plug on ATV forever. Bruce Brown, WA9GVK and eighteen fledgling club members called Congress to put the pressure on the FCC. These were the dark and uncertain times for the future of Amateur TV. Ultimately it all worked out and the FCC made a rule change that allowed Amateur TV on the ham bands.

In 1975 a computer was added to the ATV repeater. Everyone had a keyboard at home for remote access. By using the keyboard you could access the health of the repeater, such as the power output and input signal strength. This was quite an accomplishment considering computer capabilities in the mid 1970's. In 1983 the FCC approved the retransmission of the space shuttle video. Bruce Brown and the club members went to the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. and NASA supplied them with a raw video feed needed

for ATV retransmission. This accomplishment made the local commercial TV prime time NEWS. These were the very exciting times for Metrovision and the membership mushroomed. Each member was given a down converter to watch the Space Shuttle rebroadcasts.

Metrovision participated in many major public service events in the mid 1970's to the late 1980's. There was the Marine Corps marathons and Hands Across America events. In these two events an ATV repeater was set up in the top of the Washington Monument with three to four satellite cameras. Bruce Brown and the club members also participate in disaster drills which proved their worth should a major catastrophe occur.

Bruce Brown, WA9GVK stated "if it wasn't for the article that appeared in QST in the very early 70's on how to convert a Taxi cab UHF transceiver (Motorola T44), to modulate a video signal, Metrovision would not be here today". This article was the inspiration Bruce needed to inspire other hams to overcome the obstacles and put ATV in it's place in the Amateur world.



...submissions are due the 1st day of the month prior to the month of publication.  
Submit all Club Columns, Shack Sales, and commercial advertising copy to:

John Queen, Editor, Auto Call Magazine  
755 Woodland Way, Owings, MD 20736



# Repeaters and the Internet - An Area First!

by Murray Green, K3BEQ

Believed to be the first inter-connection of the Washington DC area's 2 meter repeaters to the internet, the Green Mountain Repeater Association is connecting its repeaters (146.61, 146.88) not only to other amateurs around the world but to other repeaters as well!

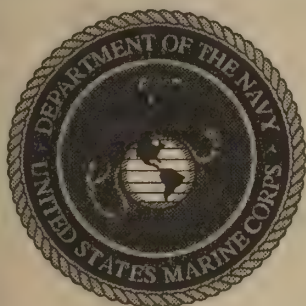
Imagine driving around town talking through your two meter repeater to another operator who is in California or Canada operating through his/her local repeater. Well, it's happening in our nation's capital on a part time basis; repeater to repeater connection as well as repeater connection to other amateurs.

Sitting in my backyard one evening, I was using my HT to access the 146.61 repeater which was connected to the Internet to an amateur in Okinawa, Japan. The audio was absolutely flawless, the connection solid, and the exchange interesting as well as exciting. The trouble was that I could not

convince my neighbor that someone in Okinawa was coming through that pocket size radio!

More and more Internet/VHF repeater activations are being initiated throughout the States, albeit on a small scale. Linking of amateur radio to the computer is a slow process that will take time for some of our amateurs to accept. But as I recall, there was much reluctance and resistance to the "Donald Duck" audio of SSB when it was introduced to the amateur community years ago.

The repeater/Internet connection will not be as revolutionary as SSB or the repeater explosion of the 70s, but will, in my opinion, be another mode of transmission for amateurs to explore, use and enjoy in the best interests of amateur radio and public service. Give it a try before making up your mind. (For more details see the December 96 issue of QST and the article entitled A New "Band" For Your Radio.)



**NEEDED:**

**A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN**

**TO PROVIDE SUPPORT COMMUNICATIONS  
VIA HAM RADIO FOR**



## The Marine Corps Marathon

**+/- 0630-1530 On Sunday, October 26th**

**TO SIGN UP, CALL THE ARES MAILBOX @ (703) 359-3414.**

**We plan to keep assignments the same as last year,  
so if you'd like something different, let us know.**

**Please leave your e-mail address along with your phone number. Thank you.**





The FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC. Is pleased to announce the 1997 winners for the fifty nine(59) scholarships which it administers.. The names of the recipients for the individual awards will appear in the November issue of *Auto-Call*.

These scholarships were open to all licensed Radio Amateurs meeting the qualifications and residence requirements of the various sponsors.

The FOUNDATION is a non-profit organization incorporated in the District of Columbia, representing more than seventy-five clubs in Maryland, the District of Columbia and Northern Virginia. It is devoted exclusively to the scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service,

Announcement of our 1998 awards will appear in the January or February issues of the major Amateur Radio publications and selected radio club newsletters.

FAR Scholarships  
6903 Rhode Island Avenue  
College Park, MD 20740

## Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Special Event Station August 30 & 31, 1997

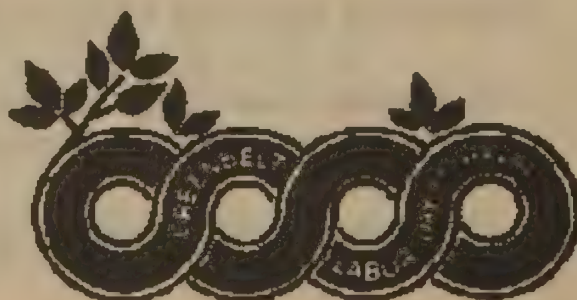
The Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club will operate the special event station, KB3BLR, at the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival, Greenbelt Center, Greenbelt, MD.

12 Noon through 10 pm EDT on Saturday, August 30th.

12 Noon through 8 pm EDT on Sunday, August 31st.

Lower 25 kHz, General Class SSB segments of 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters.

Certificate: Send QSO data and 8 1/2" X 11" Self Addressed Stamped Envelope to:  
CMARC, P.O. Box 788, Greenbelt, MD 20768-0788.





# ARRL and TAPR

## 16th Annual

# Digital Communications Conference

DCC-97 will be held October 10-12, 1997,  
at the Holiday Inn BWI Airport, Linthicum, MD.

The local host is the  
Amateur Radio Research and Development Corporation  
(AMRAD).

This is a conference for all, beginners to digital experts.  
Topics include: Amateur Position Reporting System (APRS),  
satellites, packet radio, spread spectrum and more.

Friday will include an all-day symposium covering APRS.  
Late Friday afternoon there will be a half-day seminar entitled  
"RF Basics for Computer Weenies."  
A seminar on "Spread Spectrum System Design and Theory"  
will be conducted on Sunday morning.

A block of rooms has been reserved and can be booked if  
made before September 9th. Telephone (410) 859-8400 or fax  
(410) 684-6778—ask for the Digital Conference rate of \$89/night.

Preregistration before September 10 is \$42, afterwards \$47.  
Registration includes one copy of the conference proceedings, all  
sessions, meetings and lunch on Saturday. Saturday dinner \$20.  
Seminars/symposiums—Friday: APRS 1-8 PM \$25, RF Basics for  
Computer Weenies 3-7 PM \$20.  
Sunday: Spread Spectrum 8:30-1:30 \$20.

To register or for information contact TAPR at tel (817) 383-0000,  
fax (817) 566-2544 or <http://www.tapr.org/dcc/>.



# SIMPLEX BASICS

C. Ed Harris, KE4SKY

Simplex operation is basic to amateur radio. Start by showing new operators where the "reverse" button is... If you meet on a machine and can copy the other station on the repeater input frequency, you really don't need to tie up a machine if there is no need for others to monitor your conversation. If a family or group activity covers only a radius of a mile or so, use simplex.

It is important to use only designated simplex operating frequencies. Picking just any frequency you "think" is vacant is almost a sure way to cause interference to satellite operators, packet nodes, repeater links or ATV users. So, always consult the Repeater Directory or <http://www.t-marc.org> for local coordination information.

A great way to introduce new operators to simplex is to meet on the repeater, establish initial contact, have them press the "reverse," listen to the input, and change to an alternate simplex frequency if you both have good copy.

When operating simplex you must remember to open your squelch in order to hear weak stations just above the noise floor. This is exactly the

opposite of normal repeater operation in which you keep your squelch tight to reduce random noise. FCC regulations state that we should use no more power than necessary to maintain reliable communication, but when operating on simplex, put the emphasis on RELIABLE.

Use short transmissions of adequate power to get concise traffic through the first time. This minimizes heating from an increased duty cycle on your rig, extends battery life and keeps the working frequency available for higher priority traffic. It also saves everyone else's battery capacity by their not having to ask for fills, do relays for you and repeat your traffic because you are too weak for solid copy. That is the essence of good operating.

You can see how well your rig performs on simplex by checking into the Virginia District Two ARES Net on 146.415, Fridays at 8:30. If all you have is an HT, go ahead and ask any station copying you to relay, for example "KE4SKY portable, requesting relay to net, over."

If your group would like to start a simplex net, but would prefer working from an established, scripted format, I would be pleased to provide the script for our Virginia District 2 net to anyone interested. Reply To: [ed\\_harris@p3006.F120.n109.z1.fidonet.org](mailto:ed_harris@p3006.F120.n109.z1.fidonet.org).

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## Courtesy on 2 - Meters

C. Ed Harris, KE4SKY

We should not complain about all the "new hams bringing bad habits over from 11 meters," without doing anything to "Elmer" them.

All of us would do well to offer to our fellow amateurs, and accepting ourselves, the spirit of amateur radio, through appropriate coaching on appropriate operating habits and reminders of basic courtesy.

Remember the basics of 2 meter operations:

1) identifying instead of rather just "kerchunking," the repeater to see if you can "make it," 2) waiting for the courtesy tone, 3) leaving enough of a distinct pause so that a station can break in without using a crowbar, and 4) not running so much power that you bring up every machine within 150 miles, including at least one that you cannot hear.

In addition, we should offer guidance on how and when it is practical AND appropriate to use simplex!





# Amateur Radio Training

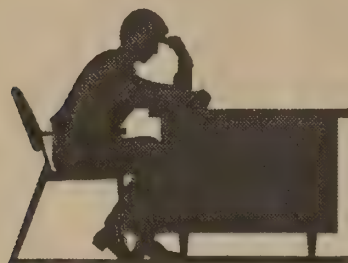
John Forrest WZ4A  
6111 Burnett St., Alexandria, VA 22310  
(703)971-3905

Please send announcements for training classes and club training contacts to WZ4A at the above address. Deadline is the 25th of the 2nd month prior to the *Auto Call* publication date (e.g., 25 December for the February issue).

## Club Training Contacts

Alexandria RC	Rich Adamy KA4GFY	(703) 644-3920
Anne Arundel RC	Tony Young WA3YLO	(301) 262-1917
Arlington ARC	Mike Callahan NW3V	(703) 241-5618
Antietam Radio Assn.	Robert Long KD3JK	(301) 824-5132
BRATS (Baltimore)	Joe Chidester W3SHZ	(410) 602-0353
Baltimore ARC	Essex Community College	(410) 780-6854
Dulles ARG	Michael Weber WB8RDN	(703) 450-2304
Fauquier ARC	Neil Spokes AB4YK	(540) 364-3861
Frederick ARC	Hal Silverman W3HWC	(301) 831-7946
Historical Electronics ARC	Rol Anders K3RA	(410) 969-0410
Laurel ARC	Pud Reaver W3YD	(301) 498-6293
Mid-Atlantic DX Assn.	Michael Vaia, WB8VBW	(301) 738-3861
Madras	Larry Ziecheck, N3GKZ	(301) 984-6113
MD Mobileers ARC	Bruce Colburn AA3KR	(410) 437-1891
Montgomery ARC	Rocky Jones KC4UXO	(301) 216-5210
Mt. Vernon ARC	John Forrest WZ4A	(703) 971-3905
NASA/Goddard ARC	Vikki Gigante KA3PVS	(301) 249-2609
Ole VA Hams ARC	Charles Dale WA4YGI	(703) 361-3091
Pentagon ARC	David Boyd K9MX	(540) 659-6241
St. Marys Co. ARC	Peter Butt WA3UMY	(301) 862-2214
Shenandoah Val ARC	Godfrey Miller N8GM	(540) 877-2607
Southern MD ARC	Vic Curtis WA3YUV	(301) 888-1388
Southern Pax ARC	Dwayne Kincaid WD8OYG	(410) 586-2177
Stafford Adult Ed	Jerry Mullinix AC4HK	(540) 659-3905
Sterling Park ARC	Forrest Snyder N4UTY	(703) 430-4149
Tri-County ARC	John Creel WB3GXW	(301) 572-5124
Vienna Wireless	Kerry Kingham, WA4BQM	(703) 691-2719
Woodbridge Wireless	Jim Duffey WD4AIR	(703) 491-3170





## Volunteer Examiner Cooperative

JOHN FORREST WZ4A  
6111 Burnett St.  
Alexandria, VA, 22310  
(703) 971-3905

\* Effective July 1, 1997, the Novice and Technician written exam question pools (Elements 2 and 3a) will change. Five questions on RF safety will be added to each exam. All books and study materials not based on these new question pools will be obsolete after that date. Be sure to use study materials appropriate for the current question pool.

\* Effective January 1, 1997, the maximum FCC authorized exam fee is \$6.26.

\* Copies of the complete (as of date) 1997 VEC Exam schedule from the *Auto Call* database are available. To obtain a copy, please send a large, self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage to cover 10 letter-size pages along with \$2.00 to cover copying costs to WZ4A at the above address.

## 1997 Schedule of Examinations

<b>September 7 (Sunday)</b>	<b>Landover, MD - DCMARC (ARRL VEC) Walk-In</b> Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 Day (301)773-2898 Evening
<b>September 13 (Saturday)</b>	<b>Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In</b> Contact: Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510
	<b>Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In</b> Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083
<b>September 20 (Saturday)</b>	<b>Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC)</b> Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM
	<b>Manchester, MD - Hanover Area Hamming Assn (ARRL VEC)</b> Walk-In accepted, Pre-Registration Encouraged Contact: Ed Daves (410)239-8488



<b>September 26 (Friday)</b>	<b>Stafford, VA - Stafford ARA (ARRL VEC) Walk-In</b> Contact: Jim McCloud N4LZJ (540)786-8012
<b>September 30 (Tuesday)</b>	<b>Glen Burnie, MD - Maryland Mobileers ARC (Laurel VEC)</b> Pre-Registration Requested, Walk-Ins Space Available Contact: Jerry Gavin NU3D (410)761-1423
<b>October 5 (Sunday)</b>	<b>Landover, MD - DCMARC (W5YI VEC) Walk-In</b> Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 Day
<b>October 11 (Saturday)</b>	<b>Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In</b> Contact: Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510
	<b>Cumberland, MD - (Mountain ARC VEC) Walk-In</b> Contact: Leo Patterson KQ8E (304)289-3576 Gay Rembold W3DFW (301)724-0674
	<b>Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In</b> Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083
<b>October 16 (Thursday)</b>	<b>Towson, MD - Baltimore ARC (ARRL VEC)</b> Pre-Registration Requested, Walk-Ins Accepted Contact: Ed Kriston N3WJA (410)HAM-TALK, Mailbox 3952
<b>October 18 (Saturday)</b>	<b>Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC) Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In</b> Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM
<b>October 26 (Sunday)</b>	<b>Hagerstown, MD - Antietam Radio Assn. (ARRL VEC)</b> Pre-Registration Recommended Contact: Bob Long KD3JK (301)824-5132 before 9 PM

***Don't forget to bring your license when upgrading!!***



<b>October 28 (Tuesday)</b>	<b>Annapolis, MD - Maryland Mobileers ARC (Laurel VEC) Pre-Registration Requested, Walk-Ins Space Available</b> Contact: Lois Turner KA3VVQ (410)647-4178
<b>November 2 (Sunday)</b>	<b>Landover, MD - DCMARC (ARRL VEC) Walk-In</b> Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 Day
	<b>Elkins, WV - (Mountain ARC VEC) Walk-In</b> Contact: Walter Corley KF8SX (304)637-0506
<b>November 8 (Saturday)</b>	<b>Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In</b> Contact: Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510
	<b>Sterling, VA - Dulles Amateur Radio Group (ARRL VEC) Walk-In</b> Contact: Mike Weber WB8RDN (703)450-2304
	<b>Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In, Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083</b>
<b>November 15 (Saturday)</b>	<b>Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC)</b> Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM
	<b>Manchester, MD - Hanover Area Hamming Assn (ARRL VEC) Walk-In accepted, Pre-Registration Encouraged</b> Contact: Ed Daves (410)239-8488
<b>November 22 (Saturday)</b>	<b>Fredericksburg, VA - Fredericksburg VE Team (ARRL VEC) Walk-In</b> Contact: Carolyn Cavanagh AC4SK (540)373-7076
<b>November 25 (Tuesday)</b>	<b>Glen Burnie, MD - Maryland Mobileers ARC (Laurel VEC)</b> Pre-Registration Requested, Walk-Ins Space Available Contact: Jerry Gavin NU3D (410)761-1423

***Don't forget to bring your license when upgrading!!***



**December  
7  
(Sunday)**

**Landover, MD - DCMARC (W5YI VEC) Walk-In**  
Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 Day  
December 13, 1997 (Saturday)

**December  
13  
(Saturday)**

**Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In** Contact: Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510

**Cumberland, MD - (Mountain ARC VEC) Walk-In** Contact: Leo Patterson KQ8E (304)289-3576, Gay Rembold W3DFW (301)724-0674

**Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In**  
Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083

## **TRAINING CLASSES**

**ELMER COURSE:** The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club will present an Elmer Course to help new hams become more proficient in the hobby by transitioning from license exam study to station building and actual amateur operation. If you have questions, problems, or are feeling left out of the amateur radio community, perhaps we can help. The course will meet from 10:30AM to 1:30PM on the fourth Saturday of each month from August thru December at the Mt. Vernon Government Center on Parkers Lane in the Mt. Vernon area of Alexandria, VA. For information contact: Frank Lempicki, AA4ZS at (703)971-9304 or Chuck Haser, W3HSW at (703)660-6623.

**UPGRADE COURSE:** The Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club (HEMARC) is offering an upgrade class for Technicians/Novices to upgrade to the General Class. Code and theory will be offered. The class will meet on 13 Wednesday nights from 6:30PM to 9:30PM starting on 10 September at the museum in Linthicum, MD. For information contact: Rol Anders, K3RA at (410)969-0410.

**ELMER COURSE:** The Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club (HEMARC) is offering a Hands-On/Elmering Course for licensed amateurs. The course offers hands on experience in building and operating ham gear. Students will build and operate a one tube QRP transmitter. The class is limited to 10 students. The class will meet every Tuesday night for 12 weeks from 6:30 to 9:30PM starting 7 October at the museum in Linthicum, MD. For information contact: Heru Wamsley, W3WVV at (410)766-3545 or Ray Robley, KD3KK at (410)859-0178.

**NOVICE/TECHNICIAN COURSE:** The Montgomery Amateur Radio Club will present an entry level amateur radio course to prepare students for the Novice and/or Technician class license exams. Morse code instruction will be offered. The course will meet at Gaithersburg High School on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 'til 9 pm. Classes will begin on September 30 and end on October 30 with exams given at the last class. There will be no charge for the classes or for the exams. However, students will be required to provide their own study guides. For information, please call Rocky Jones KC4UXO at 301-216-5210 or Peggy Kelly N3PPG at 301-330-0027.





# Volunteer Examiner Cooperative

## EXAM FEES:

- \* Check for appropriate exam fee. Fees and modes of payment for individual VECs and exam teams may vary.
- \* ARRL VEC exams cost \$6.25
- \* Laurel VEC exams are free
- \* Mountain VEC exams are free
- \* W5YI VEC exams cost \$6.25

## BRING TO EXAM:

- \* Picture identification
- \* Completed FCC form 610 (most VE teams will supply at exam)
- \* Original and a copy of current FCC amateur radio license
- \* Originals and copies of all active certificates of successful completion of prior exams
- \* Exam fee (check or cash depending on VE team)

## "GRANDFATHER" CREDIT FOR ELEMENT 3B (GENERAL WRITTEN):

- \* If you presently hold a Technician class license which was first issued prior to March 21, 1987, you may be grandfathered for Element 3B (General class written exam) by presenting the original and a copy of the license dated prior to March 21, 1987 to the VE team. It is your responsibility to prove that you are entitled to grandfathering. Do not lose your original license!

## RULES FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE FAR VOLUNTEER EXAMINER COOPERATIVE:

1. All submissions must be in writing
2. Date and day of week must be specified for each exam date
3. Point of contact and phone number must be specified
4. Sponsor and location must be specified
5. VEC must be specified
6. Exam dates up to 12 months in advance will be accepted
7. Deadline for submission is 25th of the 2nd month prior to publication date (e.g., January 25 for March issue)



The Columbia Amateur Radio Association

Presents its 21st Annual

# CARA HAMFEST

Sunday **October 5, 1997** 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Howard County Fairgrounds

**\* Computers - Amateur Radio - Electronics \***

Amateur Exams will be given at no charge

40,000 Sq. Ft. of Indoor Display Area

Large Outdoor Tailgating Area

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Many Dealers - Computers & Ham Radio

Proceeds will benefit CARA Scholarship, Amateur Classes and Repeater System  
(Including Open Autopatch)

Talk In: 146.52 Simplex, 147.135/735 Repeater, 222.32/92 Repeater

Howard County Fairgrounds  
Directions

To Frederick

Interstate 70

To I-695

(11 miles)

Fairground

Parking

Route 144

To Rt 97

1 mile

Route 32

N

**Admission Donation:** \$5.00 per person  
Unlicensed Spouse and Children free!

**Tailgating Donation:** \$10.00 per space  
(Includes one General Admission per space)  
Tailgating spaces will be available on a first  
come first serve basis the day of the Hamfest

**Table Donation:** 1-4 \$20.00 ea.  
5 or more \$18.00.  
(Includes one General Admission per table)

Call (410) 531-2933 for Table reservations.  
*To guarantee your space send your check now!*

For Hamfest information write or call:

CARA Hamfest Committee P.O. Box 911 Columbia, MD 21044

*\* After Sept. 20th, please phone prior to mailing \**

**Note  
EARLY  
DATE**



The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc.  
Invites you to the 40th Annual

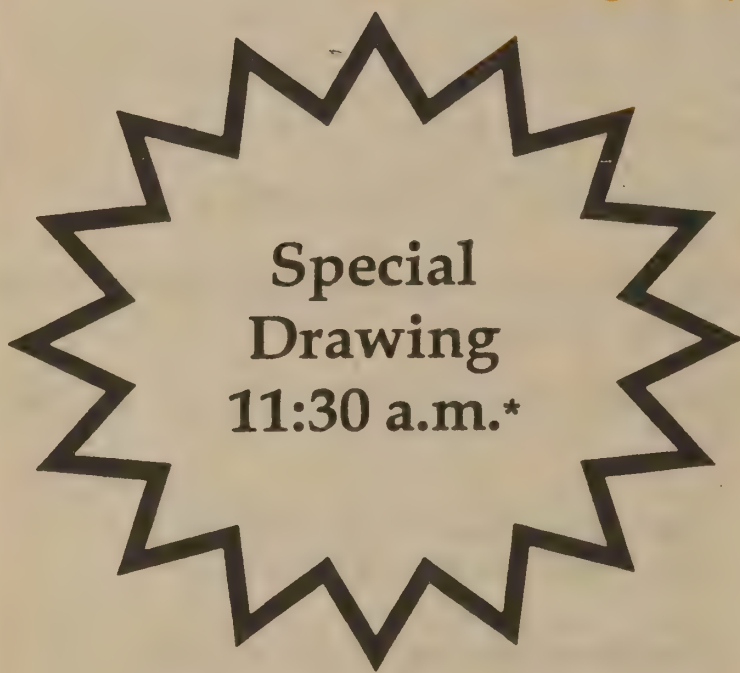
# F.A.R.FEST '97

September 7, 1997

Montgomery County Agricultural Center  
(Fairgrounds)

Gaithersburg, Maryland

I-270 Montgomery Village Avenue exit



Special  
Drawing  
11:30 a.m.\*

- AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT  
(NEW AND USED)
- ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT
- COMPUTERS/SOFTWARE
- EXHIBITORS & TAILGATING
- AMATEUR EXAMS ON-SITE  
7:00 AM (LAUREL VECW)

HOURLY DRAWINGS

TALK-IN

146.955-

443.400+

146.520

GATES OPEN AT 6:00 A.M.

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$5.00 ADULTS

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS OPEN 8:00 A.M.

CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE

TailGate, \$15.00 (per 10ft. space) requires one General Admission ticket

Set up from 11 am Saturday—General Admission will be open during setup

NO UNOCCUPIED reserved spaces

GENERAL INFORMATION:

All Requests for advance table and space reservations contact:

Mary Morris, N4TCI

N4TCI@erols.com

(703) 971-3905

"THE ONLY PLACE TO BE SEPTEMBER 7TH"

\* Picture ID required to claim prize



The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc.  
Invites you to the 40th Annual

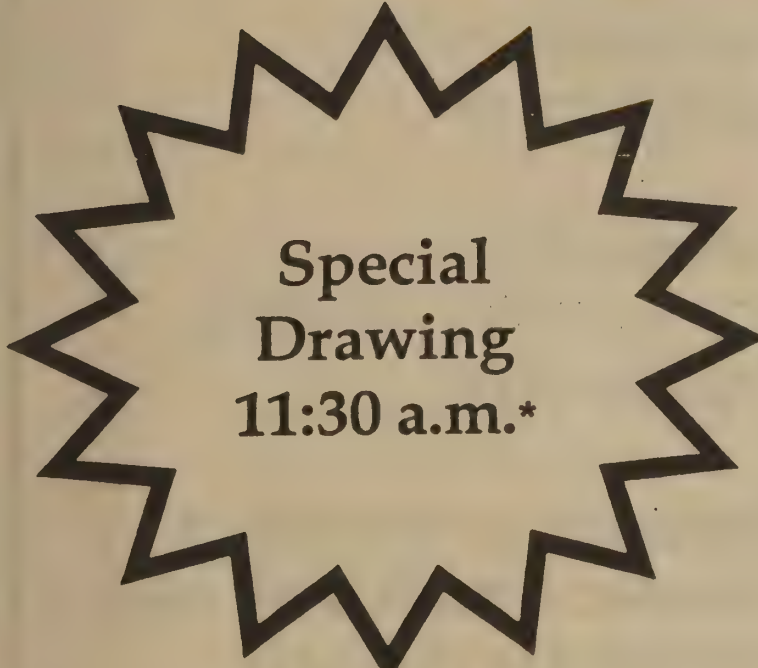
# F.A.R.FEST '97

September 7, 1997

Montgomery County Agricultural Center  
(Fairgrounds)

Galthersburg, Maryland

I-270 Montgomery Village Avenue exit



Special  
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11:30 a.m.\*

- AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT  
(NEW AND USED)
- ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT
- COMPUTERS/SOFTWARE
- EXHIBITORS & TAILGATING
- AMATEUR EXAMS ON-SITE  
700 AM (LAUREL VEC's)

HOURLY DRAWINGS

**TALK-IN**

GATES OPEN AT 6:00 A.M.

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$5.00 ADULTS

**146.955-**

**443.400+**

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS OPEN 8:00 A.M.

CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE

**146.520**

Tailgate, \$15.00 (per 10ft. space) requires one General Admission ticket  
Set up from 10 am Sunday - General Admission will be open during setup

**NO UNOCCUPIED reserved spaces**

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

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Mary Morris, N4TCI

N4TCI@erols.com

(703) 971-3905

**"THE ONLY PLACE TO BE SEPTEMBER 7TH"**

*\* Picture ID required to claim prize*



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## Alexandria Radio Club

**Meetings:** Second Friday of each month, 7:30 PM at the Alexandria Fire Department Administrative Office (co-located with Fire Station #54), 900 Second St., Alexandria, VA  
**Nets:** Every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. on 147.315 output / 147.915 input. (W4HFH repeater)  
**Web page:** <http://members.aol.com/n4cwp/w4hfh.html> (or search on Yahoo: W4HFH)  
**Information:** Rich-KA4GFY, 703-644-3920.

For those of you who did not get to our June meeting, you missed a good one! Bernie Stueker, K4XY, gave an excellent talk on radio controlled aircraft. We learned the ins and outs of how the control circuitry works. Even radio control equipment is going digital. We all learned there is more to flying R/C airplanes than meets the eye. It looks like a lot of fun! We also received an open invitation to see their planes in action.

Our own Bob Hunnicut, N4DBE, was the speaker for July. Bob explained the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), what it is, and what it isn't. In many ways, it's very similar to our VHF and UHF bands. Just like hams, they have repeaters, nets, and operating protocols. The big difference is there are no fixed stations like in the amateur service. GMRS is all mobile and handheld operation. GMRS is fairly active in the DC area. Some of us programmed the frequencies in to our scanners, and have been listening to the activities.

Field Day this year was in a different location than previous years. Rick Bunn, N4ASX, and his XYL, Karen, were gracious enough to allow us use their back yard for the site. We used a new power source this year, battery power. It sure was quiet. We took advantage of the superior location and experimented a little bit with VHF and UHF, as well as the usual HF bands. By the end of the weekend, we managed to rack up around 500 contacts running in the 3A class.

The next transmitter hunt is scheduled for August 9. KA4GFY is the hidden transmitter. The only real rule is the transmitter has to be somewhere in the Alexandria City limits. Activities start around 12 noon on the 147.315 repeater, and move to a simplex frequency for the hunt at 1 PM.

For upcoming programs, we are talking with the people at AMRAD, and are planning another visit from METROVISION. No topic as for the AMRAD program yet, but the last program they did for us was an excellent talk on spread spectrum. We have also seen a talk from METROVISION in the past, but did not get to see our own Gerald, KB4QGJ. He has assured us that he will be around the next time.

As always, we have our monthly technical discussions on various topics related to ham radio. If you are interested in upgrading, this may be the opportunity you need to soak up some of that technical knowledge for that higher-class license. In addition, we try to have a regular code practice session.

Don't forget the Thursday night net on 147.315 and 444.600 at 8 PM.

# AMRAD

## Amateur Radio Research and Development Corporation

**Mailing Address:** PO Drawer 6148, McLean, VA 22106.

**Web Site:** <http://www.amrad.org/>

**Email:** Randy Mays, WA6VFC, randy@pobox.com.

**Repeater:** 147.81/147.21 MHz Tysons  
**Corner Satellite:** AO-27 145.85/436.8 MHz

Preparations continue on the Digital Communications Conference being held September 10-12 at the BWI Holiday Inn. Check [www.amrad.org](http://www.amrad.org) for details. Magic dates for



booking a hotel room at the special DCC rate of \$89 and preregistration at reduced rate are September 9 and 10, respectively.

As this is being written, AMRAD has its radio telemetry package ready to go on the initial Sky Station balloon flight as soon as we get the launch date. Elton Sanders, WB5MMB is our chief engineer on this project.

AMRAD meets at 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of each month at the Dolley Madison Branch Library, McLean, VA. We also have a gathering every Saturday at about 1 PM at Tippy's Taco on US29 near Cedar Lane just west of Merrified, VA.

73, Paul, W4RI



## **AMSAT The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation**

**Local Meetings:** Semiannual in Spring and Fall.

**Information:** AMSAT Area Coordinator: Pat Kilroy, WD8LAQ.

**Contact by e-mail:** [wd8laq@amsat.org](mailto:wd8laq@amsat.org)

**Web site:** <http://garc.gsfc.nasa.gov/~simsat/ssamsat.html>

*AMSAT is a non-profit, scientific and educational organization incorporated in Washington, D.C. with headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. Everyone is welcome to join AMSAT and to become actively involved in the support and operation of the amateur space program. If you would like additional information then you may contact your AMSAT Area Coordinator or write to AMSAT-NA at: AMSAT Headquarters, P.O. Box 27, Washington, D.C. 20044. Or you may telephone headquarters at 301-589-6062.*

**LOCAL NET RETURNS!** You are invited to check in to the new AMSAT weekly information net. Restarted on July 13 by Net Control Station

John Klim, N3KHK, it can be found on 146.835 MHz FM on WA3NAN/R Greenbelt, Maryland each Sunday evening at 9 o'clock. The primary focus of the net is the AMSAT Phase 3D satellite news and operating tips. Please join us!

**ALINS ON WA3NAN** The AMSAT Launch Information Network Service (ALINS) will return for the launch of the Phase 3D satellite. Live Arianespace launch coverage will be retransmitted on the standard WA3NAN "space shuttle frequencies" of 3.860, 7.185, 14.295, 21.395 MHz SSB and 147.45 MHz FM simplex. Most of the check-ins and traffic will be handled on the standard AMSAT Net frequencies of 3.840, 14.282, 18.155 and 21.280 MHz SSB.

The P3D launch date has moved around and most recently settled on September 28, 1997. Recent developments, however, may impact the September 28 target date. Thinking optimistically, we will be ready to serve the Amateur Radio community with the launch activity on whatever actual date it becomes. Watch for updates from AMSAT and ARRL.

**NEXT LOCAL AMSAT MEETING AND SEMINAR.** The next local AMSAT meeting and seminar is scheduled for Sunday, November 2, 1997. The location will again be at the GSFC Visitor Center auditorium in Greenbelt, Maryland at 1 p.m. Volunteers are sought to help with talk-in on 146.835 MHz. Refreshments will be provided.

We will avoid October 12 because that occurs during the annual TAPR/ARRL Digital Communications Conference, this year near BWI airport. We will avoid October 19 because that occurs during the AMSAT-NA Space Symposium and Annual Meeting in Toronto.

All who are interested in the amateur space program are welcome to attend. See you there!

**NEW LOCAL AMSAT WEB SITE.** Don't miss out! Get our most up to date information by browsing the Local Maryland-DC Area AMSAT



73, Pat WD8LAQ  
AMSAT Area Coordinator



## Baltimore Amateur Radio Club

**Meetings:** Meetings: Twice monthly, 7:30 pm at Towson Presbyterian Church, Chesapeake and Highland Avenues, Towson, Md.. (June through Sept 97). -First Wednesday of the month -business meeting, Third Wednesday of the month - program.

**Repeaters:** W3FT/RPTR 146.67(-), 224.24 (-) (no PL) and 449.625(-)(PL 107.2) Note: two meter/220 Mhz. repeaters are linked.

**Club Net:** Every Tuesday night at 8:30 pm on 146.67/224.24.

**NTS Net:** Daily at 6:30 pm on 146.670/224.240

**Club BBS:** (410) 252-6238 (min. 2400 baud)

**Information:** (410) HAMTALK

**Greater Baltimore Hamboree & Computerfest/Maryland State ARRL Convention information:** (410) HAM-FEST or (800) HAM-FEST.

**Club Address:** BARC, Inc., P.O. BOX 120, Reisterstown MD 21136

Keeping those long wires in the air is not easy with some of the storms we've had this summer. We hope everyone is getting through them ok, and supporting Skywarn when it's needed.

BARC has been busy with public service, providing support to the Danskin Triathlon, and providing manpower for the Cycle Across Maryland operation. Jack, WB3JJL, was busy recruiting operators for this event for many weeks. BARC is 50 YEARS OLD

The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club was first chartered in 1947. To celebrate, a special events

station will be on the air on VHF and HF-SSB. Look for W3FT on the air on Saturday, September 27, in the phone parts of the General bands. See QST for complete details.

We're also planning a picnic for club members. Details will be provided in the club nets on Tuesday evenings or at the meetings.

## HAMBOREE - MARCH 28-29, 1998

The Hamboree committee is already working on the hamboree and state convention. The date is set, advertising materials are being finalized, and layout is being discussed. Last year, over a third of the tailgating was pre-sold, before the show. A concerted effort is being made to presell more tailgating spaces this year. We expect to mail a notice to everyone in our mailing list in December. If you don't get something in the mail by the end of the year, please write us at GBHC, PO Box 95, Timonium, MD. 21094. If you expect to tailgate, don't wait until the last minute. Last year on Saturday, several dozen potential tailgaters were turned away, even after a new section was set up.

## ARES SUPPORT

Plan now for participation in the SET, Simulated Emergency Test, on October 4. Get your field bag ready, make sure you have all the supplies and equipment needed to support the ARES and RACES clients.

73 for now, de N3VEJ, Doug

<h1>Maryland Radio Center</h1>	
<b>3394 Fort Meade Road</b> <b>Laurel, Md. 20724</b> <b>(301) 725-1212</b>	<b>OPEN</b> <b>10AM to 5PM Mon-Fri</b> <b>10AM to 3PM Saturday</b>
<b>Kenwood, Icom, Alinco, Standard</b>	
<b>Home of WeatherNode™</b> <i>Wireless weather information to your computer.</i> Visit us on the Internet at <a href="http://www.weathernode.com">http://www.weathernode.com</a>	





## Capital City Amateur Radio Society

**Meetings:** 3rd Saturday of each month at 1200 hours at the Woodridge Public Library, 18th and Rhode Island Ave, N.E., Washington, D.C. Visitors welcome.

**Repeater:** W3EIL 144.51/145.11 MHz, open.

**Nets:** Regular net Wednesday at 2000 hrs, RTTY net Thursdays 2100 hrs, voice portion 2145 hrs, all on 145.110.

**Mailing Address:** CCARS, 1719 Franklin Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20018-2033.

**Information:** Steve, W3ETX, (202) 526-1329 or Chester, W3EIL (202) 529-9598.

### Soap Box Derby Racing

Members of the Capital City Amateur Radio Society were out in force to assist with the running of the 55th Annual Greater Washington Soap Box Derby on Constitution Avenue on July 12, 1997. CCARS had it's electric generators up and running well before the first race cars were on the starting ramps. Power was being supplied to the PA System and Official Timers at the finish line. New starting ramps utilizing a 12 volt DC system were set to operate for the first time in this down hill run. CCARS removed one of its back-up batteries from the repeater site to power the new ramps.

"Starting line" communications were assigned to Cy, N3EPH - "Finish line" communications to Jim AA3CD, Colin N3UBL Bree N3YAJ and Chester W3EIL - "Traffic Crossing Race Course" to Steve W3ETX, Sam N3ECI, Willis N3LGB, - "Repeater Emergency traffic" to Sharyn KA3DOF and Shep WB3KIC. There were no injuries or accidents reported.

This is the 10th year that CCARS has participated in this popular youth event sponsored by the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby. (Letter from Ken Tomasello, Derby Director) ..... "I am

writing on behalf of the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association, to Thank you, the Capital City Amateur Radio Society for your tremendous help in making this year's race the most memorable ever. Your communications system is great and your Society members are courteous and very helpful. I also appreciate your willingness to lend a hand when needed whenever we have problems. The use of your generators and this year the 12 volt battery is very much appreciated. We could not race without your help. I enjoyed working with you on race day again this year. Again, Thank you and I hope to continue our relationship next year and well into the future."

73's, Joe, K3UAL



*Executive Board meeting of Capital City Amateur Radio Society making plans for the coming season. Left to right John N3TCD President, Steve W3ETX member, Willis N3LGB Treasurer, Joe K3UAL member, Chester W3EIL Secretary.*



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Eugene, OR 97401-4017

<http://www.teleport.com/~qcwa>





## Carroll County Amateur Radio Emergency Team & Radio Club

**Address:** Carroll County Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 2099, Westminster, MD 21158.

**Repeaters:** 2M: 145.410-, 70cm: 449.875,  
6M: 53.090.

**BBS:** 145.03 & 446.075.

**Nets:** Tuesdays 8:30 p.m. local CARET Net  
145.410-. Wednesdays: 8:00 p.m. local, Mason  
Dixon Swap Net 145.410-.

**Club Meetings:** Business meeting Second  
Monday of the month at the EOC in  
Westminster. 7:30 p.m. local, talk-in: 145.410-  
Program meeting: Last Wednesday of the  
month at the EOC in Westminster. 7:30 p.m.  
local, talk-in: 145.410-.

The Gamber VFD grounds sprouted antennas, and the melody of a generator, along with the staccato of CW brought life to an otherwise tranquil rural area. Field Day once again brought this Club together in Gamber, Maryland, demonstrating that we are able to put a communications site on the air if a major emergency arises.

Thanks to the Field Day committee for preparing the training and making all the arrangements for a very successful weekend. Kudos to all who enjoyed coming out to spend time operating the radios, installing and removing the equipment, and making sure that there was plenty of food.



*Master chef Doug N3CWG with Jerry N3GQK*

Those who had fun in the sun and the moon were: N3SB, N3UN, N3GQK, N3JIA, NY3M, W3DF, N3MNM, N3SOK, W2GLN, N3PLA, KE3FL, N3XLY, and WX3F. It was great to see Bill N3WM take some time out of his busy schedule to work at the CW station. Seeing a new face and a past club member, Bob N3RH, taking a shift in the wee hour of the morning with his son was fantastic. I've heard that he enjoyed getting back into the "hot" seat. Another junior op that seemed to have enjoyed his self was that of Wil NY3M. There must be some fascination with being awake in the middle of the night that the young get excited about.



*Dan, W3DF, sorts through CW signals*

Again this year, the food stuffs were excellent. Thanks to all who brought a dish to the picnic, and to our culinary experts Phyllis N3BYU, Sharon N3UVH, and master charcoal grill chef Doug N3CWG. Thanks to Jeannine for again being an able body whatever person, and to Rich N3JIA for the most fine business job he did in making the generator a safe and "user friendly" machine.

To all club members, past and present, who came out for even a few hours to enjoy the picnic or help with set-up and tear down, your presence was greatly enjoyed. Least I mention, the score! I know we more than doubled our contacts tally from last year. Having fun and good social mingling while simultaneously communicating using multiple transmitting stations in 24 hours was definitely accomplished.

Another opportunity to put K3PZN on the air will be during the Maryland/DC QSO Party. This



operating event is not a contest, per se, although making as many contacts as possible does bring its rewards. We could operate the station in the FTC radio room.

A really good time was had at the Westminster VFD Country Music Festival on July 13. The day was fantastic, the music was great, and the fire works at the end of the show were the right touch. Oh, yea, we did provide communications support as well as providing extra eyes for the Fire Department. I would like to thank N3UN, N3BYU, N3MYJ, N3SOK, WX3F, and a special thanks to N3KTX our fire department liaison for asking us to help out. Also helping out, and nice to meet and work with, were the gang from the Manchester club: N3TOT, N3VTR, N3VXQ, N3WXT, KB3NL, N3VGB, N3XBO, N3FFR, N3MKE, and N3MTR.

Are you prepared? We had a heavy storm move through the area on July 21st which knocked out the electric service for many areas in Carroll County. For those who had lost power, could you have maintained communications through the duration of the power outage? Again the Carroll Amateur Radio Emergency Team (CARET) did well in the SET. Good job, gang. There was a nice article in August QST felicitously describing an ARES member. Read "The ARES Nonemergency" to see if you fit the character.

Congratulations to Wayne N3UN for taking the top spot in his class for the ARRL RTTY Roundup. Phil KE3FL and Dave KG6TU continue to remain highly active on the traffic and ARES nets.

By the time you read this, the 911 on the auto patch should be working. Unfortunately, users of the regular auto patch will have to dial the area code plus phone number to make a telephone call.

I am sorry to report that Lee N3EOT has become a silent key. I know that our heart felt thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of this gentle man.

73 de WX3F



## Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club

**Meetings:** 4th Friday of the month at 7:30pm, at the Doctors Community Hospital, 8118 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD (no meeting in December). Enter in the Outpatient Testing entrance across from the Emergency Room entrance behind the main building. Take the elevator to the 5th floor and exit left, the meeting room (DSE Room) is on the right.

**Repeater:** N3EZD/R 145.230 Mhz. Users must transmit a 110.9 Hz CTCSS Tone for full area coverage. No tone necessary for local coverage.

**Net:** Every Tuesday, 9:30pm, 145.230 MHz repeater.

**Mailing Address:** Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club, P. O. Box 788, Greenbelt, MD 20768-0788.

**Information:** Jim Tilton, Pres. - KD3JA, (301) 552-0012.)

With great sadness we report the passing of long time club member and good friend, Wally Bailey/N3IYC, from a severe heart attack on July 17th. He will be sorely missed. His funeral was held at the College Park Church of the Nazarene at 10:00 am on July 21st.

CMARC established a Wally Bailey memorial fund. Contributions to the fund were used to pay for flowers for the funeral, with the remainder given to the Community of Hope, an organization to which Wally contributed a large number of volunteer hours. It is a ministry to the poor of Washington, DC which runs a medical clinic, helps people earn their GEDs, and provides other services and training.

CMARC participated in Field Day this year at the New Carrollton Bible Church, located on Good Luck Road, just inside the Beltway overpass, in New Carrollton, MD. We operated from 2 pm through a little after 9 pm on Saturday, June 28th.



During that time period, we made 271 valid Field Day contacts in comparison to 139 last year. We used three HF transmitters simultaneously into dipole antennas on 80m, 40m and 15m, plus a mini-G5RV antenna which was used on 10m and 20m. We also made three contacts on 2m FM simplex.

Special thanks to Sam/N3SJD for the use of his church's grounds as our Field Day site again this year. Special thanks also to Tom/N3BXW for his motor home and generator - and for providing hamburgers, hot dogs and his grill, and to Tony/N3JWT for his canopy shelter.

CMARC will again participate in the Maryland/DC QSO party from KD3JA's back yard on Saturday, August 9th. We will break for a pot-luck dinner around 6 pm. All CMARC members and their families are invited.

Those who aren't necessarily interested in the radio operation are encouraged to come to the pot-luck dinner. We will recommence radio operations after dinner through 12 Midnight, or whenever the operators tire out, whichever comes first.

CMARC will operate the special events station, KB3BLR, from the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival on Saturday August 30th from NOON through 10 pm EDT and on Sunday August 31st from NOON through 8 pm EDT. Look for us on the lower portions of the General Class bands on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. Confirmed contacts supplying a 8"x11" S.A.S.E. will receive a special certificate.

CMARC will again offer a free Novice/ Technician License Class this fall. Classes will commence on September 12, 1997, and will continue on Friday nights through December, with the exception of club meeting nights. Classes will be held at the club meeting location (see above), with CW practice at 7:00 pm and theory presentations starting at 7:30 pm. Students must purchase study materials (about \$19.00).

73 de Jim/KD3JA



## Dulles Amateur Radio Group

**On-the-air meeting:** Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. on the Dulles Airport repeater.

**Repeater:** N4FSC, 145.310 (Dulles)

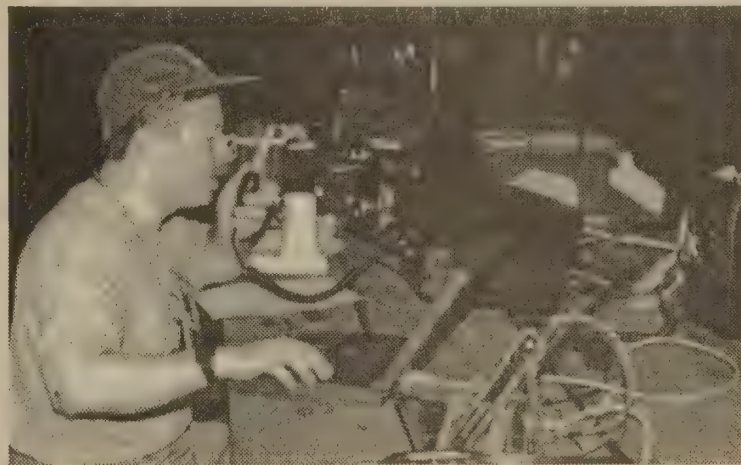
**Mail:** Dulles Amateur Radio Group, P.O. Box 5073, Herndon, VA 22070-1964

**Information:** Mike Weber, WB8RDN, 703-450-2304, [weberann@erols.com](mailto:weberann@erols.com).

**Packet:** N4WJN BBS 145.030.

**Web page:** <http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Way/8873>.

The Dulles Amateur Radio Group (DARG) and Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club (SPARC) continue working very closely with officials from Loudoun Hospital and local authorities to support the October Hospital move and two mock moves with radio amateurs from the surrounding community. Earlier this year, DARG and SPARC joined forces to offer the amateur radio assistance that will be needed to move up to 80 patients from the old Leesburg Loudoun Hospital to the brand new Lansdowne Loudoun Hospital.



*Steve, KAILM at DARG Field Day 1997*

Members of the Hospital Move's Amateur Radio Planning Committee were invited to and recently met with Hospital move officials and officials from Loudoun County Fire and Rescue who will be providing "Command and Control" for the effort. They provided a briefing on the

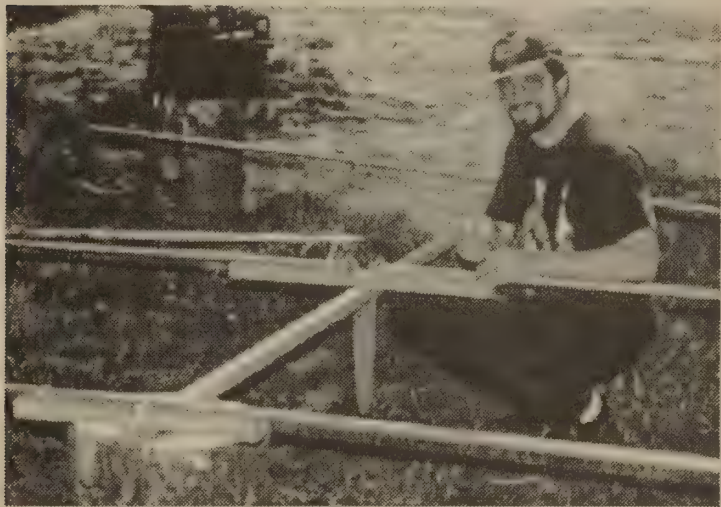


effort, where amateur radio operators could provide significant assistance and hundreds of other details. The Hospital officials continue to express their appreciation that amateur radio operators in the surrounding community took such an interest in providing this badly needed public service support. More details will be provided as the effort unfolds in the coming months.



*Mark, KR4FH (left) and Steve, KA1LM (right) at DARG Field Day 1997. Photos by Mike, WB8RDN.*

The DARG November ARRL/VEC exam session has been changed from November 8 to November 15 at the request of the Loudoun Amateur Radio Group (LARG).



*Dave, KE4OKY at DARG Field Day 1997*

LARG is holding an amateur radio training class this fall and DARG will tag team with LARG to provide the testing session, as DARG and SPARC did earlier this year in a similar effort. The DARG Holiday Party will be held on 13 December. It might rain before then.

73 Mike WB8RDN (Pres/DARG)



## Green Mountain Repeater Association

**Repeaters:** \*146.61 Cheverly, \*146.88 Greenbelt. \*(Autopatch).

**Information:** Don Tinari, W3RYQ, (301) 262-7062.

**Mail:** P.O. Box 523, Bowie, MD. 20718.

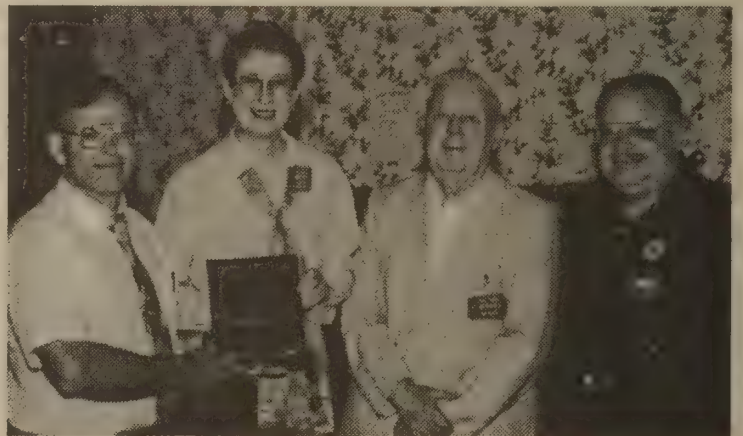
**E-mail:** mgreen@erols.com.

**Socials:** Luncheon, 1st Saturday of each month at 11:30 A.M., Laurel Centre Indoor Mall Eatery.

**Nets:** 146.88 - Old Gent's Net, 9:30 A.M. and 6:30 P.M. every day. Washington Adventist Amateur Radio Association Net, every Thursday at 9:30 P.M.

## A GREAT DAY - A GREAT BUNCH OF PEOPLE!

On Saturday, July 12th, Ms. Kay Craigie, WT3P, ARRL Director, Atlantic Division, drove down from Paoli, Pa., to attend the GMRA July luncheon and present the Atlantic Division Amateur of the Year Award to Joseph Nunemaker,



*ARRL Atlantic Division's Amateur of the Year award being presented to Joseph Nunemaker II, KD3VR (left) by (left to right), Ms. Kay Craigie, WT3P, Director, Atlantic Division, Hugh Turnbull, V/P ARRL, and Bill Howard, WB3V, Section Manager, MDC. (Photo by Murray, K3BEQ).*



KD3VR. ARRL Vice President, Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC and ARRL Section Manager for Maryland-DC, Bill Howard, WB3V, also attended the luncheon ceremonies.

It was standing room only at the luncheon presentation where 65 GMRA members gave KD3VR a well deserved ovation following his acceptance speech. A great day together with a great bunch of people. Thanks to all who attended and to the ARRL representatives for taking the time and extra effort to say "Thank You".

### **W3ZRW; AN AMAZING GUY!**

While I may occasionally ride a bicycle around town huffing and puffing, one of our GMRA members, W3ZRW, Joel Katz, rides hundreds of miles. In July, during the heat wave, he began pumping the pedals for 450 miles between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, Pa. Joel is a devoted bicyclist having literally biked thousands of miles over the years together with other bike enthusiasts. Amateur radio takes a part in his travels providing communications when necessary. When Joel is not biking or running his own business, you can usually find him jogging around Greenbelt lake and vicinity or at the gym to keep in shape for the long rides. When he is in our area doing his thing, you can usually talk to him on the 61 or 88 repeaters between huffs and puffs.

### **KE3GD - A QUIET MAN**

Talk about the varied and interesting occupations of our membership: try this one for size. KE3GD, Joseph Nunemaker III, (JP as he is called) and the son of KD3VR Joe and WB3AOA Allie, just received his Pyrotechnic license after many years of apprenticeship. What this means is that JP is licensed to perform/supervise firework shows. His parent's comments to me after working with their son over the 4th of July holiday, was that they have a new respect for all of the work involved in setting up the displays. They literally loaded thousands of containers with fireworks and ancillaries. "When you are that close to the massive

display, it puts a whole new perspective on fireworks; absolutely awesome", Joe and Allie said after the show.

During the off season JP is attending college towards a degree in Digital and Imaging Arts and working part time in a local television station. Not bad for someone in his middle 20s. JP is unusually quiet about his achievements; never bragging or boasting, just plugging along, straight ahead. A quiet man with a not so quiet job.

### **FROM THE BIG BANDS - TO AMATEUR RADIO**

The "Big Bands" referred to in the title do not pertain to amateur radio. I'm talking about the music biz and the great ones of the 40s and 50s; Dorsey, James, Miller etc. And speaking of that era, one of our members and a grand old gent, N3NAG, Harold "Doc" Farnham, was part of that time.

Doc is a retired professional musician, well qualified on the piano, organ and accordion. He played with Sammy Kaye, Austin Wiley and Emerson Gill before organizing his own 15 piece band touring the country. Following that he joined small groups doing gigs at hotels and cocktail lounges and then did single piano for TV and musical shows.

Serving his country with the Navy Fleet Marines as a medical photographer, Doc participated in World War II and Korea. Later in life, a severe stroke took away his musical talents and his speech. However, never one to give up, he obtained his amateur license in 1992 primarily to help regain his speech. For a long time he just listened to "The Old Gent's Net" on our 88 repeater before joining in. He credits the help given to him by GMRA Net members and amateur radio for restoring his speech. Doc is now a regular on the Net and our repeaters. On July 4th he not only celebrated "The Birth of a Nation" but his 86th birthday as well!

73 de Murray K3BEQ





## Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club

**Meetings:** Second Thursday of each month, 5:30 PM, In the Historical Electronics Museum, West Nursery Road and Elkridge Landing Roads. Linthicum, Maryland (Next to BWI Marriott Hotel).

**Club Station:** W3GR.

**Info:** Herman Turner, WK3P (410) 647-4178.

**Mail:** P.O. Box 746, Mail Stop 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203.

**Street address:** 1745 W. Nursery Rd., Linthicum, MD 21090.

**Note:** The meeting night of HEMARC has been changed from the second Wednesday night of each month to the second Thursday night of every month.

### The W3GR Special Event Station

This commemoration of the successful use of electronics during the Normandy invasion was an excellent learning experience for HEMARC. In all 217 solid QSO's were logged and one iffy satellite QSO. The interest on the bands was keen and everyone had a very fine time.

The TBL-13 did act up and reports of chirp made us aware that an old problem had not been as completely resolved and we believed. Three of the contacts were on ATV and 12+1/2 on Satellite.

40 meter CW was good with 13 CW QSO's using the TBL-13. Many 10,20 and 40 M SSB contacts were made and even 2m netted 26. 33 states, 2 provinces and 2 +1/2 countries were counted.

The wonderful new operations facility was given a real workout and some modifications to allow greater flexibility are already in the works

as a result. It was a very good event and the next one will be even better.

### The June Meeting

A recapitulation of the Special Event activity was held. Actions required from that experience were noted. Many thanks to Tony Dalsanto, N3HYR for the terrific job on the Special Event Certificate.

The major activity of the meeting was detailed planning for Field Day with all the last minute details being hopefully battened down.

HEMARC welcomes new members: Nick Yokanovich, N3YVW and Paul Szewczyk, N3XIZ..

### Training Classes

The Hands-On/Elmering class for licensed amateurs will be held again. This introduction to the building and operating of ham gear will be held at the Museum every Tuesday night from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM for 12 weeks beginning October 7, 1997. For enrollment or information call Heru Wamsley, W3WVV at 410-766-3545 or Ray Robley, KD3KK at 410-859-0798.

The Upgrade to General Class will be held at the Museum every Wednesday night from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM. The first class will be on September 10, 1997 and will be held for 13 weeks. For information or registration call Rol Anders, K3RA at 410-796-4792.

### Field Day

The HEMARC Field Day activity was reviewed with considerable pleasure. The score was good though not the increase hoped for, but the fun factor and learning experience was notable.

QRP is challenging and more elaborate antennas for VHF and Satellite contacts are on the must list for 1998.



## Technical Presentation

The technical portion of the meeting was a view graph presentation on "Improved Multiband Trap Dipole Antenna" by Herman Turner, WK3P.

This antenna was used with good results for the HEMARC and the detailed presentation and look and touch of the antenna was very informative. A good antenna made from relatively inexpensive and commonly available materials is always of keen interest.

## Other Projects

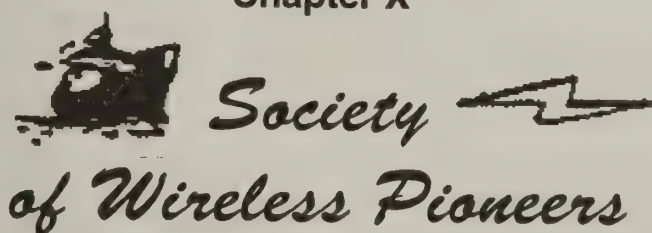
The HEMARC VHF net was discussed at length and it was determined that it no longer was effective in supporting the present goals and objectives of the club.

The net did provide benefits to the club over the past year or so and HEMARC appreciates the generous support of the net provided by the Baltimore Amateur Radio Club.

The TBL-13 and BC-610 still need some work on respectively chirp and power output. If anyone is interested in working on this fine old military gear, please call Herman Turner, WK3P at 410-647-4178 or e-mail wk3p@aol.com.

73 de Chip, W4PBG

### Chapter X



THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION  
OF PROFESSIONAL RADIO TELEGRAPHERS

For Information Call  
(703) 536-9537



## Laurel Amateur Radio Club

A Volunteer Examiner  
Coordinator

**Meetings:** 4th Wednesday of each month (except November & December) 7:30pm at 384 Main Street, Laurel Md.

**Social:** 2nd Wednesday of each month, except December (Call for directions).

**Nets:** 1st & 3rd & 5th Wednesdays, 8:30pm, on 147.225+, no tone.

**Mail:** P. O. Box 3039, Laurel, MD 20709-0039

**Exams:** 3rd Saturday of each month, to pre-register contact: John/WB3GXW (301) 572-5124 after 6 P.M.

**Information:** Mark/N3NTQ (301) 572-2385 or Roger/W3LM (301) 776-6961.

**Web Site:** <http://www.webtrek.com/~laurel/org/larc>. E-mail: laurel@webtrek.com

July 5 saw the Laurel club helping the Fourth of July Committee from the City of Laurel with the parade and day's festivities. We had a good turnout and helped organize the parade and cue the fireworks with the music.

A couple of the members extended themselves and helped with the Cycle Across Maryland this year. Roger/W3LM (who has also participated as a rider) and Pud/W3YD were stationed in Calvert Co. They found it to be an enjoyable experience and urge folks to put it on their calendars for next year.

Our July meeting had as it's guest speaker Scott/NF3I, who gave an excellent presentation on QRP and kit building. New hams and not so new hams can find the cost of getting on HF to be somewhat pricey. My first car only cost a fraction of a new HF rig today. But help is at hand in the form of modestly priced kits and already built transceivers that are designed to work on a single band. For less than the price of a used HT you can be working toward your WAS or DXCC. Low cost and low power doesn't necessarily mean low



contacts!

The club is offering the Novice/Tech course this fall, beginning Monday, Sep 22 from 7-9 p.m. It will run on consecutive Mondays until the Monday before Thanksgiving at the West Laurel Rec Center on Brooklyn Bridge Road. The last session will offer a free test through the Laurel VEC for the participants in the course or anyone else who would like to take any of the written or code tests. We will be using the new ARRL Now You're Talking. Call Pud/W3YD at 301-498-6293 or Jim/WI3N at 301-725-6829 or 410-792-8164 to register for the course.

The Laurel club will be working hard at winning the MD QSO Party again this year on Aug 9-10. We hope lots of you worked us! More on that adventure in the next issue.

73 de-Jim/WI3N



### The Maryland Apple Dumpling Radio Amateur Society, Inc.

**Meetings:** 2nd and 4th Thursdays - 7:00 P.M.  
NBC Building - WKYS Conference Room,  
4001 Nebraska Avenue, Washington, DC.

**Nets:** 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 9:00 P.M. on  
145.45 MHz (PL-5A).

**Repeaters:** 444.100/449.100 MHz (PL-2A),  
145.45/144.85 MHz (PL-5A).

**WWW Address:** <http://mvhsl.mbhs.edu/~fwright/MADRAS.html>

**Mailing:** P. O. Box 2468, Wheaton, MD 20902

**Information:** Larry Ziecheck - N3GKZ (301) 984-6113, Jean Blacik N3PLC (301) 984-6113.

MADRAS extends its appreciation to Jean Blacik N3PLC, Leo Boberschmidt KA3TGY, Sandy McWherter N3TQE and Fran Wright KA9ORU, for the many hours they spent getting the Field Day '97 results together. It's a tedious

job to check the log sheets and the dupe sheets to make sure everything matches and adds up. Let's not forget the hours spent getting together all the proof for the Bonus Points and then finally mailing the finished package off to ARRL before the deadline. You all did a great job and we say "Thank You".

Our Special Event celebrating the 4th of July and the 55th Anniversary of Voice of America was, as the British say, "a smashing success". We operated from 1200 to 2130 UTC. In that short period of time we contacted 44 states, DC, three Provinces and Great Britain. Our operators, Leo KA3TGY, Bob N3NNQ, Gary S92AT, Michele WK3X and Larry N3GKZ, had a fun time and enjoyed working all the pile-ups. We thank all the members of K3VOA for allowing us to operate this event from their station.

The annual MADRAS cookout, which took place on July 20th, was well attended. Michele WK3X, who provided her house and back yard was a most gracious hostess. This year it was cool enough to actually sit outdoors for a couple of hours and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine. Food and drink were plentiful and we all enjoyed the sinfully rich deserts and coffee after our meal.

Just a reminder that its time to renew your MADRAS membership and send in your dues. Letters with SASE's were sent out after Field Day to everyone on the mailing list. Thanks to all of you who have already sent in your dues. We appreciated your quick response.

Summer has come to an end and we will begin our fall schedule, starting with our September 11th meeting. We will once again be meeting on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 P.M. Our Thursday night Net will meet on 145.45 at 9:00 P.M. on the first and third Thursday, which are our non-eyeball meeting nights.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Labor Day weekend.

73 .... Jean-N3PLC





## The Maryland Mobileers Amateur Radio Club

**Meetings:** First Friday of each month at the AA Co. EOC, Crownsville State Hospital grounds Crownsville, Md.

**Repeaters:** WA3PJQ - 146.805 & 449.125 both in Millersville, Md. W3VPR - 442.3 in Annapolis - Joint usage AARC.

**Social Breakfasts:** 15 days (3 Saturdays) after club mtg, at Rick's Cafe in Odenton at 9 AM.

**Mailing:** MMARC, P.O. Box 935, Severn, Md. 21144

**Nets:** 2-Meter on 146.805 @20:30 local time every Monday, 10-Meter CW practice net @19:00 Monday on 28.230 MHz.

**Information:** Brian Fitzpatrick, N3QXW (President). Bill Ziegler KA6TYY (410) 987-2384 (e-mail: Zzziggy@aol.com).

**Web:** <http://www.erols.com/wb3v/mmARC/>

Greetings to all from the Mobileers!

This summer has offered us some great weather. Yes, it has been hot and dry, but this has allowed us to enjoy Field Day and other outside Ham Activities. But, along with that great weather has been that great propagation on 2 meters. Though this might be great for simplex operations, with all the repeaters located on the east coast it has made usage of our Millersville repeater somewhat disruptive. I like to monitor the repeater at all times, but when it is constantly brought up by ducting signals, it becomes so irritating that I usually shut it off. It also doesn't do any good for the repeater's transmitter either. SOooooo, after much thought and long discussions, the mobileers have voted to keep the PL Tone on full time as of 01 August. So the tone for the 146.805 repeater is 107.2 Mhz. Right now we have a courtesy announcements advertising the PL frequency, so we hope all will continue to use it. During special events and emergencies, the control operators will decide on whether to turn it on or off.

The MMARC has a dynamite WEB SITE. If you haven't checked it out, please do. It is located at <http://www.erols.com/wb3v/mmARC/>. Bill Howard, WB3V, has put it together and done an excellent job. We try to keep upcoming events posted on it.

That's it for this month. Please note our club meeting, breakfast and net times. We would be happy to meet you and share some good "Ham Stories"!! Don't hesitate to use our repeater if you are in the area.

73, Bill/KA6TYY



## The Mid-Atlantic DX and Repeater Association

**Meetings:** Second Thursday of each month, rotating locations among Hagerstown MD, Frederick MD, Martinsburg WV and Greencastle PA.

**Net:** Tuesday evenings at 1930 local on 147.06.

**4 State10M net:** Wednesdays at 2000 local on 28.315.

**Repeaters:** Frederick MD: 147.06, 224.20, 448.125; Martinsburg WV: 147.345.

**Mailing:** 230 North Potomac St., Suite 2A, Hagerstown MD 21740

**Information:** Voice BBS 301-416-8447 (info Box 112) LandLine BBS (301) 416-8435

So, here we are in the September issue. Apparently the vagaries of Internet prevented us from appearing in the August issue. Sorry about that. Of course, it seems like old stuff at the beginning of September, but the memories of SwetFest97 are still fresh in mind as this is written.

Thanks to all the loyal members and friends of MADRA who came out to make our HamFest a success. It's gaining momentum nicely as each year's event gets talked about in the Ham world.



In Brunswick we get talked about in very nice ways. City Administrator Rick Weldon paid all Hams a compliment with his comment that he is impressed each year with the orderly and good-natured behavior shown by attendees and exhibitors as well as the fact that cleaning up the 'Fest grounds afterwards is easier than for any other City event.

In turn, MADRA thanks Rick, Councilman Brent Bell and Special Events Coordinator Geri Reynolds for their long hours of voluntary support to SwetFest97. They appreciate our support of RailRoad Days each October and they sure know how to show it. Chief O'Donnell shifted his weekend officers to make sure we had plenty of round-the-clock coverage for our cash stash and exhibitors before and during the 'Fest; thanks, Chief.

We also thank the members of the Frederick, Antietam and Opequon clubs who pitched in to assist us with our HamFest. This kind of club-to-club teamwork shows that the old spirit of Ham Radio is still there in the new "me-now" world.

August was a good month for recuperation. This included bringing some of our repeaters back to normal after a vicious vandalism attack. It could have been theft, but we don't want to believe that Hams would also be thieves. For those not on the repair crews, it was a month to veg out.

Lots is happening in September, so be sure you're aware and part of it as you can be. Our exam dates in Martinsburg will be shifting from the fourth Thursday to the first one. September's VE session in Martinsburg will take place on the 4th at the Berkley County Emergency Services Building on Queen Street at 7:30 PM. The Saturday session will be in Smithsburg, no changes, on September 20. Register by e-mail at <veteam@aol.com> or use the phone BBS number in the column head.

We'll have our September meeting in Martinsburg at 7:00 PM on Thursday September

11. Please check in on one of our nets to get the name of the restaurant. By the way, the new, improved MADRA WebSite can be viewed now at <<http://www.qsl.net/madra>> thanks to good work by Bob, N3TXB. Check it out.

C U @ FarFest; we'll be doing the **\*\*hard\*\*** work.

73 DE N2CSQ/3



## Montgomery Amateur Radio Club

**Meetings:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m., Executive Office Bldg, Montgomery Co. Govt Center, 101 Monroe St, Rockville. Park in underground lot G-2.

**Repeaters:** 146.955 (-600) & 442.750 (PL 156.7) in Rockville.

**Club Net:** Every Sunday night at 7:30 PM, on the MARC repeater.

**Internet:** <http://www.dsport.com/marc/>

**Mail:** MARC, P.O. Box 611, Gaithersburg, MD 20884-0611

**Information:** Jeff - KZ3F (301) 258-0112

**Training:** Ms. Rocky Jones (301) 216-5210

Welcome Back! Whether you spent your Summer at the Beach, the Mountains or traveling the globe, it's good to welcome you back to a very busy Autumn season of Amateur Radio at the MARC Club.

September starts off with the area's biggest and best Ham fest: the FAR Fest. And this year, our long standing tradition of providing talk-in continues, on the 146.955, 443.400 repeaters and 146.520 Simplex. Jeff KZ3F will be coordinating the activities and it's not too late to volunteer an hour of your time, to help travelers to get to this ham radio mecca. For more info call (301) 258-0112 if you can lend a hand.



Also, for the third straight year, the MARC Club will allow would-be flea market buyers to "test before they invest". No one wants to wind up with a lemon (or in ham radio terms, a boat anchor), so Farrel N3PPR and his crew of diagnosticians will help you check out that treasure that you have unearthed at the fairgrounds to see if its "the real deal". If you can spend some time at the test table, call (301) 258-1937.

September 21st is the date set aside for the biggest block party in Montgomery County: Old Towne Gaithersburg Day. There will over 50,000 attendees and the MARC Club will be there with the KV3B Special Event Station, and an information table with demonstrations and some of our club's amateur radio ambassadors to expose the public to the wonders of this great hobby. To help out, or for additional info, contact Laura N3VOL or Eric N3NFS at (301) 330-9328.

The annual MARC Club Elections are just weeks away, and the month of September is the time when our elections committee puts together its slate of candidates to serve as officers and members of the board of directors. Our club president, Al NW2M is retiring from elected office, and so we are looking for someone to step forward to fill this very important position. If you are interested in taking a more active role in the club next year, contact Al at (301) 869-5623.

The Fall months are filled with numerous Public Service activities. Two important names to remember are Bob Lyons NK3I who handles our club's communications support and Ross Merlin WA2WDT who is our RACES liaison. Bob can be reached at (301) 253-5439 and Ross's number is (301) 983-2842.

One of our most popular outreach programs is the MARC Education Classes. Our Fall Novice/Technician training class will take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in October and November starting at 7:00 p.m. at Gaithersburg High School. There will be both theory and Morse Code instruction being offered. To sign up or to

find out additional information, contact Rocky KC4UXO at (301) 216-5210 or Peggy N3PPG at (301) 330-0027. The classes are free, but students must provide their own copy of the latest edition of "Now You Are Talking".

Thanks!!! - The MARC Club wants to thank Tim Sweeney N0AGC and Dick Hayman K3DML for their generous donations of two towers for the Club's remote receive site at the Germantown Campus of Montgomery College. In addition, Jeff Goldman K3DUA from G&G Electronics has sponsored six new MARC members with a year's subscription to Auto Call.

As you can see, the Fall season is off to a very busy beginning, so come to our club meetings, check in to the Sunday Night Net for the latest information, and get involved in as many MARC activities as your schedule will allow. Ham Radio is a wonderful hobby and we enjoy sharing many great experiences with you at the MARC Club.



## Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club

**Meetings:** Second Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m. (except December) Mt. Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parker's Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308.

**Nets:** Every Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. Starts on 2 meters then moves to 10 meters on 28.405 MHz.

**Repeater:** WD4PDP 146.055 input / 146.655 output.

**Mailing:** Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club(MVARC) c/o Joe Salemi KR4CZ, P.O.Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307.

**Information:** Chuck W3HSW, 703-660-6623.

**WEB Site:** <http://www.netcom.com/~jsalemi/mvarc.html>

Mother Nature placed a damper (literally) on the Manassas hamfest in May with rain for most



of the day. The showers drove off what appeared to be a promising group of buyers, window shoppers and eyeball QSOers gathering in the early morning hours. The rain forced most of the tailgaters to close up shop and go home early, with most resolving to offer their bargain buys at the next upcoming hamfest. The Club will have items for sale at the Winchester (Berryville) hamfest.

During the World Prefix (WPX) contest, Frank, K4EC, visited Steve, NJ4F at Steve's station in Spotsylvania county. Together with several other operators they amassed a score of 4.9 million points, up from last year's 4.7 million point score. This impressive tally included several hours of downtime while an antenna problem was repaired.

The Club's Field Day was a successful outing where everyone had a good time. MVARC's site was at Fort Ward park in Alexandria. This site offered the advantages of height and better grounding conditions. The Club operated in class 5A and made well over 1500 contacts, with the operational emphasis being on training and having fun, rather than amassing a high score.

A high point in the activities was the visit of the FCC's Doctor Robert Cleveland and several staff members who used the Club's transmitter sites to collect field data for an environmental project and future legislation. As expected, all Club transmitters used at Field Day were found to be environmentally safe. Field Day also marked the first use of a newly-purchased pop-up shelter that can be easily set up by one person. The shelter will be used at hamfests and other outings.

On the Fourth of July MVARC filled its annual role of providing communications and miscellaneous support to the Independence Day festivities at Lee District Park. Fortunately, this year there were no incidents, unlike last year, when a premature explosion injured one worker. The rapid response of the ham communication team quickly summoned medical care and reduced potential problems.

Look for some new calls on the bands. The

Club received its' new call sign: K4US, which was used at Field Day and will be at special events. George, formerly KS4FD, is now N1BV, which is very close to the callsign of Tom, N4BV.

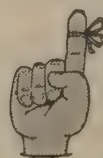
The Club has started an "Elmer" program to help newly-licensed hams, or anyone with an interest in radio, with start-up or follow-up advice or consultations on practical matters. Some casual, informal classes about soldering, basic troubleshooting, station operation, hamfest attending, contests and other subjects suggested by the group will be held on the fourth Saturday of the month, immediately after the Club breakfast (at 1030).

The Elmer get-togethers are at the Mount Vernon Government Center, in the same room used for the Club meetings. Walk-in parties are invited, but a call beforehand would be nice. The first session featured two QRP rigs feeding dummy loads. Frank, AA4ZS, coached several folks who had little or no CW experience, in some "on-air" operation across the room. This program is more of an information exchange than a teaching activity, with everyone learning something from someone else. How about some help from the more experienced hams? Call Frank, AA4ZS, at 971-9304 or Chuck, W3HSW, at 660 - 6623.

The Club's picnic is scheduled for Saturday, August 23, at Area 2, Lee District Park. (Area 2 is just to the left of the Caboose and Carousel). Details will be finalized at the August meeting.

Remember, the Club license testing program at Lee District Park on the second Saturday of the month at 0900.

73, Chuck, W3HSW



Reminder - all submissions for

**AUTO CALL**

are due no later than  
the 1st of the month prior to the  
month of publication!!





## National Capital ARES Council

Greetings from NCAC! The proceedings of the June 7th meeting went something like this...

Institute: 1. Lenny's been on jury duty and hasn't had time to finish the paperwork—final tally to come. 2. We decided to move future Institutes to November 8 and March which are less busy times for the amateur community. 3. We plan to break it down so we offer a basic track and advanced track. 4. Please send ideas for topics you would like to see to [SteveCruse@aol.com](mailto:SteveCruse@aol.com).

NCAC SET: We plan to hold our SET on August 23 so its out of the way when we are preparing for Marine Corps Marathon. Several groups have expressed interest in participating with us—American Red Cross and Explorer Post 80 with remote stations on emergency power and National Weather Service with a link between the Sterling and Wakefield Offices. Our exercise will be primarily local with DX check-ins from other stations.

MCM: October 26. The operation will be similar to last year with more operators as "eyes" on the route in addition to the usual aid station, water stop, supply traffic. We will be encouraging Command to have better communications for Supply and "Tail End Charlie" and a complete sweep of the end of the course which fell to us last year and quick removal of Drs/RNs from closed Aid Stations for the crunch at the Finish. Volunteers can begin calling NCAC Voice Mail at (703)359-3414 to sign up.

Fund raising: 1. We will be picking up trash at the FARfest on September 7 for cash. National Weather Service George and the Whalens of Prince William have volunteered to stay over for the Monday am inspection.

Tees, Hats & Jackets: We continue to receive requests about the orange jackets and we'd like to get this operation going, but its going to require a volunteer to handle arrangements & ordering of logoed items. NWS: Skywarn Observer I is scheduled for June 14th from 12-3 pm and Observer II on July 16 from 7-9 pm.

Funding Proposal to FAR: Submitted to Chuck Sommer for review by Executive Committee and hopefully, once and for all, a vote.

FARfest: After discussion of escalating cost of renting Montgomery Fairgrounds and corresponding ticket prices, it was recommended that FAR charge \$20 for tailgating if it would allow individual admission to remain at \$5. It was also suggested that FAR form a committee to locate a new site for next year. If anyone has any ideas, please, let me know. It would require indoor/outdoor space and plenty of parking preferably near an interstate to facilitate travelers.

\$\$\$\$\$ We are looking into incorporation and 501C status to better handle our finances—poor Lenny is still keeping our scarce funds in a flower pot in his back yard!

Mike Holland ARES/RACES/REACT is working on a new MOU with the National Capital Chapter of American Red Cross. After years of head banging, there is a new administration. Glad to hear it!!!

Welcome to John Klim who is representing Vikki Gigante and Prince George's Co. His e-mail address is [john.r.klim@noaa.gov](mailto:john.r.klim@noaa.gov). Add him to the list!

We also now have an e-mail contact with Loudoun Co. George Thevenet, who is Chuck's AEC is at [teagle242@aol.com](mailto:teagle242@aol.com). Add him, too!

Rip Smith is recovering from hip replacement surgery. We miss his smiling face and hope he'll be back with us soon!



Next Meeting: July 26, 930 am at Fire Station 54, 900 Second St. (at Powhatan St)—near the G.W. Parkway in north Alexandria. Talk-in on 146.91(-).

Don't forget! Check the web page aresva.org for information during weather events—especially those in other areas that may require activation by American Red Cross.

Check in to the net on Sunday nights at 9 pm on 146.91(-).

If you have a question or want to announce a public service event and cannot make the net, call me at (703)971-0384 or e-mail me at jrexroad@aol.com.

Thanks!!! Jeanne N4ZGI



### Prince George's Wireless Association

**Meetings:** First working Tuesday of each month, 7:30 PM; American Red Cross bldg., 6206 Belcrest Rd, Hyattsville, MD 20782.

**Club Station:** K3CEZ

**Mailing:** 4109 Kennedy St., Hyattsville, MD 20781

**Information:** Frank Holton - WA3ZMW  
(301) 927-1245

PGWA's regular monthly meeting was scheduled on July 1st, 1997. However, due to the absence of the President and Vice President and the lack of members, no actual meeting took place.

Frank, WA3ZMW has put in for resignation of President due to age and physical conditions. At this time, the future of the Prince George's Wireless Association is unknown.

Charles Church, KA3COT, and Ken Easton, N3HLY, were the only members at the club station,

K3CEZ on July 1st, 1997. PGWA dates back somewhere into the 1960's when it was first started.

Hopefully some of the club members will respond to this dilemma and help rekindle the spark that once was there. We would like to thank E. Franklin Holton, WA3ZMW for all the wonderful years and work including donations of electronic equipment and funds to keep the club going.

73's from Ken Easton, N3HLY



### St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association

**Meetings:** Fourth Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM, at the Lexington Park library.

**Repeater:** K3HKI (146.64 MHz)

**Packet:** K3HKI.#SOMD.MD.USA.NOAM  
(145.75/145.01/223.58/440.975 MHz)

**Lunch Bunch:** Every Friday, listen on the 146.64 MHz repeater between 10-11:30 AM to find out where to meet.

**Nets:** - "St. Mary's ARES", every Monday at 8:00 PM on 146.64 MHz - "Bottom County", every Wednesday at 8:00 PM on 146.64 MHz.

**Address:** SMCARA, P.O. Box 743, California, Maryland 20619.

**Newsletters:** Complimentary copies are available at local Radio Shack stores.

The Saint Mary's County Amateur Radio Association continues to be very active with Public Service Events. Most notable are the St. Mary's County Trade Fair club booth, Cycle Across Maryland and the Mt. Zion Country Fair. We provided general Amateur Radio materials as well as an NTS message service for each event.

For Cycle Across Maryland Saint Mary's Amateur Radio Emergency Service fielded a communications team and deployed a portable 2 meter VHF voice and packet station as well as an HF voice link to the Maryland Emergency Phone



Net to support an NTS message center. to La Plata, and Lusby, Md.. We handled 125 NTS messages in two evenings.

SMCARA members were saddened by the passing of one of our members. Bill WA3RRW became a SK. We will miss Bill.

73 de Mark/KE3OX



### The Middle Atlantic FM and Repeater Council, Inc.

**Meetings:** Coordinating Committee (CC) normally meets the last Monday of each month, 19:30, in the OEP conference room of the Prince George's County Emergency Operations Center off Central Avenue. Talk-in on 147.18.

**Address:** P.O. Box 1022, Savage, Md. 20763-1022 for all correspondence.

**Web Page:** [HTTP://WWW.T-MARC.ORG](http://WWW.T-MARC.ORG).

**Information:** President - Owen Wormser K6LEW (703)684-7682 CC Chairman - Bill Conaway W8HNT, Pager (703)741-4251. Ombudsman - Jim Erickson K3LFO (410)549-1041, K3LFO@APEXGRP.COM.

This month I'll discuss a spectrum-saving technique which has found little use by Amateurs. Known as "multiplex", several communications channels can be combined onto one RF channel. There are several methods of generating a multiplexed signal, and it can be used for either linear (voice or video) or digital signals. In the commercial world, dozens (or even hundreds) of channels are combined onto one RF carrier, such as on long-distance telephone microwave or satellite links.

Here in our area, one Amateur group is planning to use multiplexed UHF signals to carry the audio for several repeaters, plus some packet data, on one radio link. This way, T-MARC needs

to coordinate only one link frequency, which will serve multiple purposes (actually, they are planning on several multiplexed links). Another application might be for several repeater groups to combine their efforts by using one link for their different repeaters. Because of the bandwidth of multiplexed signals, they can only be used on the Amateur bands above 420 MHz.

New construction coordinations have been issued to N3ONK in northeastern Maryland for a proposed 224.300 repeater, and to KF4MQF in Spotsylvania County, Va., for proposed 146.775 and 442.850 machines. Now that it's in operation, final coordination has been issued to the Old Virginia Hams for their new 442.200 repeater at Manassas. NVFMA has been issued an amended coordination to move their Tyson's Corner, Va., UHF repeater from 444.750 to 447.025. And K3SVA submitted the coordination of his 442.950 machine on the eastern shore for cancellation, since it's permanently off the air. Thanks, Gene. This will open up a channel for someone else to use.

Finally, in accordance with the recently revised 2-Meter band plan, the replexers which have been operating in the 144.91-.99 band segment are in the process of being re-located into the mid-147 MHz band. Once completed, we'll give you the full details.

I hope to see many of you at the FAR's hamfest at Gaithersburg on September 7th.

73, Gary, W3DTN, T-MARC PIO

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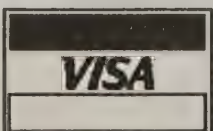
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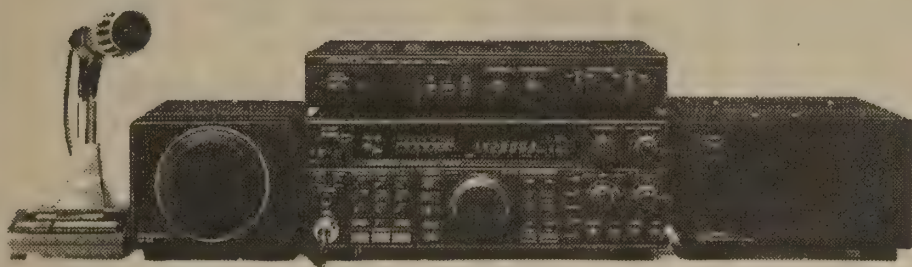
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**FOR SALE:** Hustler 6BTV vertical antenna, mint. \$55.00. RCA CD180 CD player. Mint \$55.00. KA3WPZ, Paul. (301) 649-4685. [10/97]

**FOR SALE:** Ten-Tec Hercules II, model 420 solid state linear amplifier with mode 264 remote control, Model 9420 power supply, and Ten-Tec model 238 antenna tuner; little use, like new; sell as package only for \$1700. Yeasu G450XL antenna rotor, \$150. MFJ-1786 isoloop with deluxe control-\$150. Marige B-215G 2 meter amplifier with remote control-\$250. DCI model 146-4h two meter band pass filter-\$50. Greg (WSZNT), 703-938-1329, or email [gregtybe@erols.com](mailto:gregtybe@erols.com). [9/97]

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20, 1-10, 10-MO4 rods). \$200 takes all. Greg (W5ZNT), Phone 703-938-1329 or email [gregtybe@erols.com](mailto:gregtybe@erols.com). [9/97]

**FOR SALE:** Zenith video camcorder compact VHS with auto-focus HQ circuitry. VM6180, 2 batteries, all in a plastic carrying case. Used once for a trip. \$395 - cash. Larry (301) 894-3977. [9/97]

**FOR SALE:** Wire antennas, test gear, CW typewriter, B&W SSTV, coax, scope NIB, stainless cable, UHF antenna meter, run of late QST, connectors, etc, etc. All good for Hamfest selling. Make offer for all. W3MSN (301) 894-3977. [09/97]

**FOR SALE:** 13 drawer tool chest/cabinet combination on wheels. Craftsman. Cost \$700.00. Never used. My error, your gain. \$500.00 OBO. Hank Mason, W3FVD. (301) 899-8717. [09/97]

**FREE:** Hobbyist bonanza! Devry electronics course manuals, old equipment, data books, parts, misc. Excellent for precocious teen experimenter (like I was). Eric, Silver Spring, (301) 438-8270.



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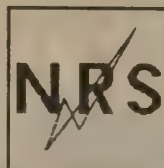
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[SWP]

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[SWP]

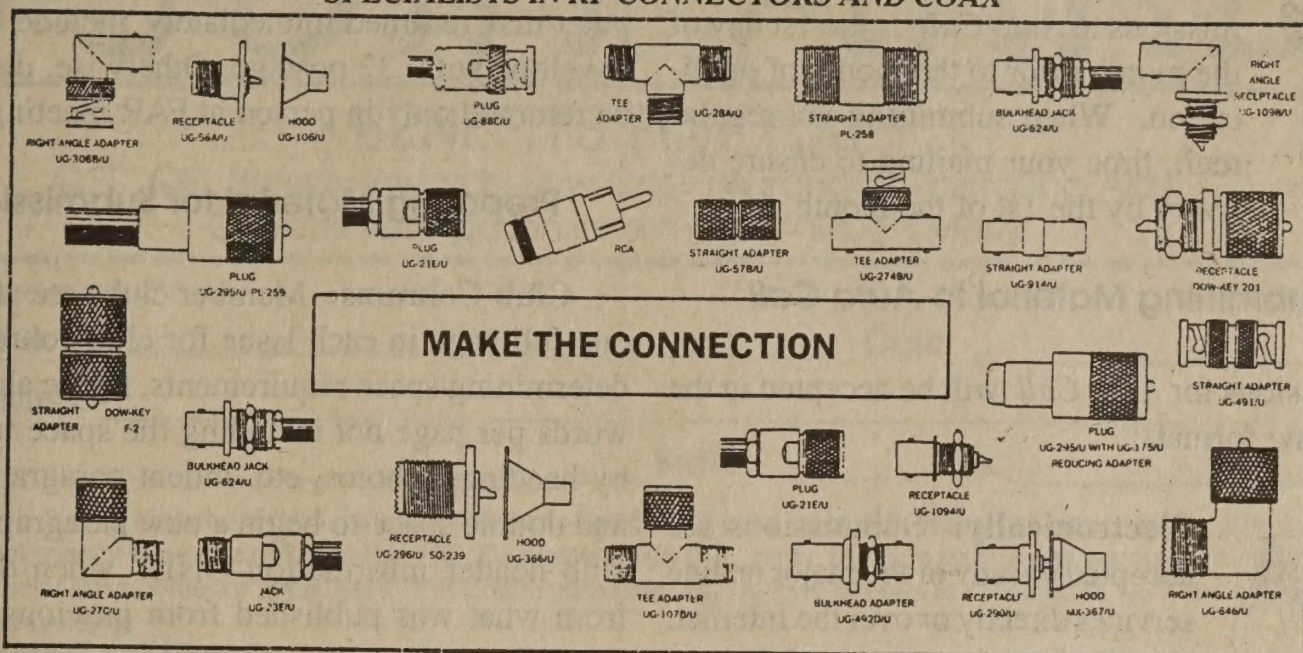
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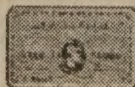
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Submissions for *Auto Call* will be accepted in the following formats:



**Electronically:** Submissions are accepted via any of the major on line services directly or over the Internet. Use the format exactly as follows:

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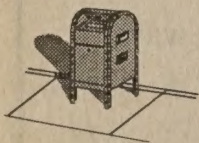
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**Regular Mail:** Mail typewritten or computer generated hard copy to: John Queen, Editor, *Auto Call* Magazine, 755 Woodland Way, Owings, MD 20736. Ensure that your printed material is dark enough for scanning.



**Computer Disk:** Submissions are accepted on 3.5" or 5.25" computer disk, in either Macintosh or MS-DOS format, using Word, WordPerfect, or standard ASCII text files. Write your name, telephone number, and club name on the disk. Submit graphic files (club logos, etc) in an EPS or TIFF format. Please verify the readability of your com-

puter files before sending. If you want your computer disk returned immediately, include a SASE envelope with .32 postage. Otherwise, disks will be returned only in person at FAR meetings.

## Preparing Material for Submission

**Club Columns:** Member clubs are allocated one full page in each issue for club columns. In determining space requirements, figure about 700 words per page not including the space taken up by headings, photos, etc. Indent paragraphs .25" and double space to begin a new paragraph. Send club header information ONLY when different from what was published from previous month. The editor reserves the right to edit any submitted material for space, content and/or applicability.

**Hamfests/Events:** Member clubs are allocated one full page per year to promote one club sponsored hamfest, convention, or special event. Submit clean black & white camera ready copy only by mail. Master copy should be in black ink on white paper and should be in proper page ratio, (Copy space is 7" wide by 9" high). Copy can be reduced or enlarged as necessary. Electronic submissions of Hamfest ads will not be accepted.

**Photographs:** The editor will select the best photograph submitted for the cover each month. Photographs should depict club members, club stations, or amateur radio related events that are current and noteworthy. Clubs may also submit photographs for inclusion with their club column. Photographs will be used in columns when space permits. Either B&W or color photos can be used. For each photograph submitted, write your name, phone number, and club name, along with a description of the photograph on a piece of paper, and tape it on the back of the photograph. Do not write on the back of your photo. If you want your photos returned immediately, include a SASE envelope with sufficient postage. Otherwise, photos will be returned only in person at FAR meetings.





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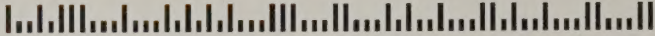
# Area Club Meetings - September 1997

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	<b>1</b> DOSARC	<b>2</b> Antietam PGWA	<b>3</b> BARC Montgomery	<b>4</b> Anne Arundel	<b>5</b> Mobileers Shenandoah	<b>6</b> Green Mtn.
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Carroll Co.	<b>9</b> Leisure Frederick Woodbridge	<b>10</b> FAR - VA Exp Post	<b>11</b> AMRAD MADRAS Mid-Atlantic Mt. Vernon HEMARC Fauquier	<b>12</b> VOA Vienna So. Maryland Alexandria	<b>13</b> North Point
<b>14</b> Metro Comm	<b>15</b> OVHA Sterling Park	<b>16</b> Antietam Arlington	<b>17</b> BARC Montgomery Goddard QCWA 137	<b>18</b> Anne Arundel	<b>19</b> Shenandoah	<b>20</b> Capital City QCWA 91
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Columbia	<b>24</b> Laurel Exp Post Moose Carroll Co.	<b>25</b> MADRAS St. Mary's	<b>26</b> Central MD Vienna	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Adventist (31)	<b>29</b> Green Mtn. T-MARC	<b>30</b>				



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